

## Families of Palestinian police to return

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Tuesday Israel will allow the return home of tens of thousands of relatives of a planned Palestinian police force under Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Rightist opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the step as indirect recognition of Palestinian demands that Arabs who fled or were expelled from Palestine in the past be granted the right of return. "It is unacceptable to me that immediate relatives (of the Palestinian policemen) will come," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "In the Gaza Strip there are more than 750,000 Palestinians. In my view another 20-30,000 will not change a thing." Israel and the PLO last week agreed to details of the 9,000-strong Palestinian force due to take over from Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip and a West Bank enclave around Jericho. A total of 2,000 police are to be recruited from Gaza and Jericho, 6,000 will come from outside the territories when the agreement is signed, and another 1,000 from outside three months later. Negotiators of both sides said last week.

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## Israel asks Britain to outlaw Hamas

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has asked London to outlaw Hamas blamed for the two car bombs that killed 12 Israelis this month, Israel Television reported. In its request, Israel said that Hamas is concealing its activity on British soil by hiding behind Muslim charitable and welfare organisations, the report said. The foreign ministry said it had no knowledge of such a request. A spokesman for the Home Office in London, speaking on condition of anonymity, said English law does not allow banning of organisations outside those dealing with Northern Ireland. He added that the practice was to act against individuals rather than banning organisations.

## Woman in Kuwait kills housemaid

KUWAIT (R) — A woman in Kuwait killed her housemaid by striking her on the head with a sharp object, the English-language Arab Times reported on Tuesday. The brief report did not give the nationalities of either woman. It said the incident happened in an apartment in Kuwait City's Salma area. An interior ministry official said by telephone he understood that an incident of the kind reported by the newspaper had happened and that it was being investigated. But he said he would not have any details before Wednesday.

## Police kill militant; arrest 2 in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police shot dead a wanted militant and arrested two others Tuesday in southern Egypt, police said. Mokhtar Kamel, 22, was killed in an exchange of fire in the town of Manfoul, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, said Magdi Basioni, security chief of Assuit province. Kamel, who was wanted for killing a policeman in 1992, was shot to death and his two companions arrested as they sought to escape a police shootout, security officials said. The three were spotted Monday by police doing extra patrols since officials were to pass through Manfoul as part of celebrations for Egypt's triumph over the 1798 French invasion.

## Jailed Iranian editor released on bail

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian journalist, imprisoned by the Tehran government for unknown reasons eight months ago, has been released on bail. Abbas Abdi, an editor with the Farsi-language daily, Salam, was released on a bail of 100 million rials (\$7,000). Mr. Abdi was arrested Aug. 28 while out driving with his family. The charges brought against him have not been made public. He was tried by the Revolutionary Court, following which he appealed to the Supreme Court. The latter did not accept certain allegations made by the prosecutor general as crimes, the Times said.

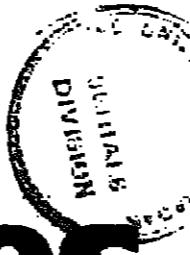
## Iran reports large drug haul

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian security forces have killed three drug traffickers in gun battles and seized seven tonnes of narcotics, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The agency said the drugs were seized from two "camel caravans" in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province. IRNA quoted Brigadiers General Mahmoud Japalagi, head of the province's security forces, as saying his men seized 5,900 kilogrammes of drugs from the first caravan Monday, following a shootout in which three of the traffickers were killed. He said that 1,100 kilogrammes of drugs were seized in another raid Monday. Gen. Japalagi said the raids were made near the border with Pakistan, from where the drugs were brought. He said about 100 kilogrammes (220 pounds) of the total haul, consisted of morphine, heroin and hashish. The rest was opium, he said. The Iranians, who blame their drug problems on neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan, report large drug hauls almost every week.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي



## Iran asserts right to use nuclear energy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday defended his country's right to make use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, unlike nations endangering global security with lethal weapons programme. Tehran Television, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Velayati as saying "Iran is furious because of Israel's refusal to sign the non-proliferation treaty." In a meeting in Tehran with Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Velayati said, "Global peace and security is being endangered by some manufacturers of nuclear weapons." Mr. Blix, who arrived in Tehran Monday on a two-day visit, said his agency was satisfied with the way Iranian officials had cooperated with IAEA inspectors in the past. Iranian news reports have not given the reason for Mr. Blix's visit, or said whether he would be inspecting any nuclear facilities. The television said Monday Mr. Blix would "discuss cooperation between the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran."

## Oman water talks end with 'success'

Final statement passed after Jordan registers protest against Aqaba siege

MUSCAT (AP) — Arabs, Israelis and experts from around the world Tuesday ended a Middle East water-sharing conference, reporting ground-breaking progress in their effort to eliminate a potential source of conflict in the region.

A final statement, read by John H. Herbst, a U.S. State Department envoy, said the three-day meeting, at which the Israelis made their first public appearance in a Gulf Arab state, was "very successful."

He said the delegates "broke new ground by agreeing to a number of concrete proposals" for cooperating in water conservation, the use of the existing resources and the introduction of modern methods to help alleviate what experts fear could become a flashpoint for conflict in the area.

The conference is part of the multilateral talks, launched within the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace process two and a half years ago.

The talks, which are sponsored by the United States and Russia, are aimed at securing coordination in five main spheres while the key Middle Eastern adversaries, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians work on settling their political differences.

Asked about the Jordanian issue, Mr. Herbst said: "The working group worked on the basis of a consensus and the working group is satisfied it got a consensus."

Jordan had said Mr. Ghazzawi was attending only as an

(Continued on page 3)

## Israeli army detains over 400 in sweep

Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists targeted

AMERICAN JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers and undercover agents arrested over 400 Palestinians linked to the organisations that carried out a series of attacks that killed 13 Israelis, the army reported Tuesday.

Scores of younger members and some senior leaders were rounded up overnight throughout the occupied territories, with more than 200 taken in the West Bank town of Hebron in February.

The group had killed 12 Israelis in two bombings inside Israel this month and vowed more killings in revenge for a mosque massacre in the West Bank town of Jenin in the

Bomb since last week.

The sources said those arrested in Gaza belonged to three major categories.

Some had been detained in the past for links to Hamas and others were relatives of suspected guerrillas from the Al Qassam Brigades. A third group included relatives of prominent Hamas supporters.

A few were young professionals, but none were known to occupy high positions in the movement. The sources said troops also broke into other houses but did not find their quarters.

The two prominent personalities in Hebron both represent Muslim fundamentalists in a cross-party Palestinian committee handling relief for the town of 110,000 people, which has been under strict curfew since the Feb. 25 massacre.

CAIRO (R) — A Palestinian delegate said Tuesday that Israel had reneged on the timetable for releasing 5,000 Palestinian prisoners, possibly throwing a spanner in the works at negotiations on Palestinian rule in Gaza and Jericho.

A source close to the talks said the two sides were also deadlocked on negotiations over a map of Gaza outlining areas of Israeli control and Palestinian access to the coast.

The PLO delegate, who asked not to be named, said the Israelis were now saying they could include only 4,000 prisoners in the timetable fixed at last week's talks in Cairo.

Palestinians say the map gives Israel control of all the coast, leaving them only a passage for commerce. They say Israel refuses to allow Palestinian naval patrol boats and coastguards.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said last week Israelis also want full access and control of a "yellow zone" — agricultural land around Jewish settlements.

Israeli sources said 1,000 prisoners had committed security crimes and that their

forces detained six Hamas supporters who were among hundreds Israel expelled for a year to South Lebanon in December 1992.

Tuesday's operations

brought the number of Hamas supporters arrested in the aftermath of the bombings to about 400, including 120 arrested in Jenin in the West Bank since last week.

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Israeli sources said 1,000 prisoners had committed security crimes and that their

extended detention was connected with two suicide attacks this month in which members of Hamas killed 12 Israelis.

While the two sides struggled in Cairo to reach a deal on the prisoners, Israeli security forces rounded up several hundred Hamas supporters in huge pre-dawn sweeps in Gaza and the West Bank town of Hebron.

The Cairo talks must also resolve disagreements over a map of Gaza, agreed by the two sides in February but regarded by the Palestinians as merely a draft.

"This is the most troublesome issue," the source close to the talks said.

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considered Palestinian property but the Israelis want full use of it for security purposes.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath left Tuesday's talks after less than one hour and went to consult PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas.

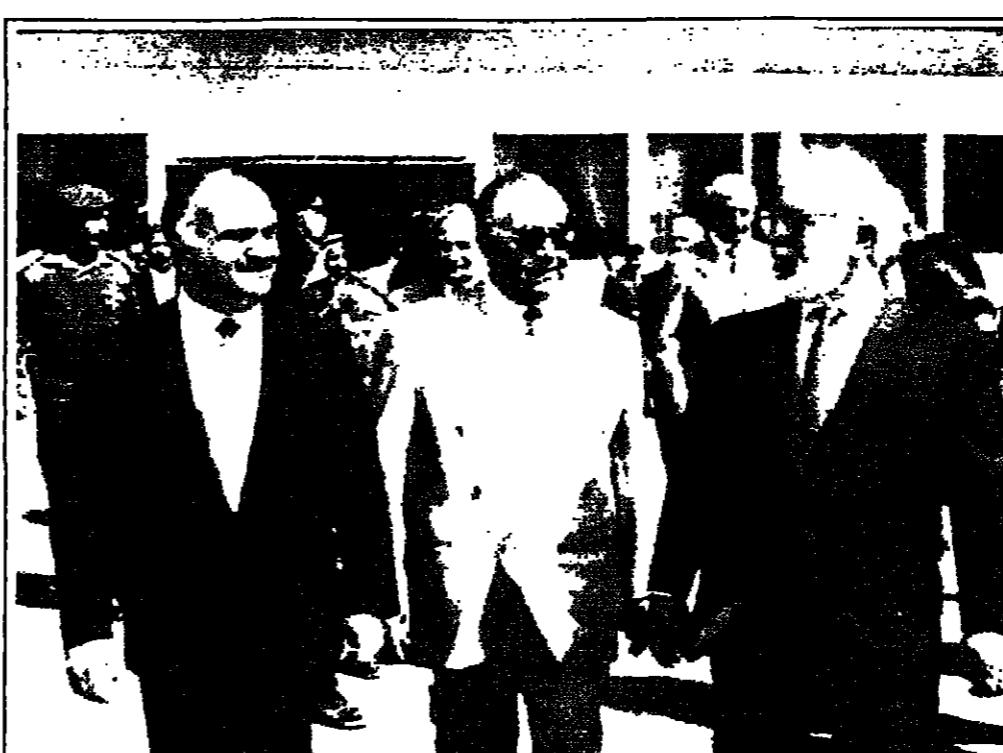
He later returned to the talks at a Cairo hotel but declined to speak to reporters. Sources said the mood was tense.

An Israeli delegate was more optimistic. "We are moving slowly but we are moving. The talks are steady but there are no breakthroughs yet," he told reporters in the morning.

The prisoners have become one of the major obstacles to agreement in the talks, which are now in their fifth month.

"Forget all the other committees. The most important for us and our people in the occupied territories is the release of the prisoners," PLO negotiator Mohammad Dahlan told reporters.

The Palestinians want Israel to give a firm timetable for setting free all 8,500 prisoners, including Hamas supporters.



King leaves on private visit to Britain

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday left for the United Kingdom, where he will undergo medical checkups on his left ear.

The King was seen off at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Ali and several royal family members in addition to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the speaker of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament, the chief chamberlain, senior civil and military officials and the British ambassador to Jordan. The King is accompanied by

Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisor Yanal Hikmat and Jordan's ambassador to the U.K. The Crown Prince was sworn in to serve as Regent during His Majesty's absence.

An official said the Monarch might meet with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and other officials during his stay in London.

"His Majesty will brief British officials on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process," said the official, quoted by the Associated Press.

## Regent urges boosted ties with Israeli Arabs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called for bolstering relations between the Arabs of Palestinian land occupied by Israel in 1948 and the Arab and Islamic nations.

In a speech at a lunch banquet hosted in honour of delegations from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and Israeli Arabs who attended the Kingdom's celebrations marking the completion of renovation work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem, Prince Hassan said the completion of renovation works prove that righteousness will eventually triumph, calling for highlighting "the moral right of Arabs and Muslims to historical Palestine."

The Regent pointed to the violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian lands, the separation of Jerusalem from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the confiscation of Palestinian lands.

In a speech at a lunch banquet hosted in honour of delegations from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and Israeli Arabs who attended the Kingdom's celebrations marking the completion of renovation work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem, Prince Hassan called for ending the war in the Balkan and the use of the word "radicalism" to describe Muslims, stressing that this wrong should come to an end and reminding that about 80 per cent of the world's refugees are Muslims.

The call for understanding Arabs and Muslims should continue "and we have to agree with the world conscience, and I do not necessarily say the official conscience, that what is taking place in the Holy City is a clear criteria for the will of peoples to co-exist and integrate."

Diversity and respect for religious and cultural rights and material integration of all interests and all people are among the fruits of peace, he said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan supports any initiative that would lead to more contacts between the Jordanian people

and Palestinians in the occupied territories, pointing to an invitation to the audience to attend the establishment of a branch of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research and another for the Al-Azhar University in Jerusalem.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan adheres to the political principles regarding the Palestine question, adding that His Majesty King Hussein stressed in his Monday's address that Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people and cause.

With orders to arrest two other suspects inside the complex if they ventured out.

Asked who would look after Iraqi interests in Lebanon, Mr. Fakhri replied: "The Lebanese people."

Mr. Fakhri had passed on Baghdad's rejection of a Lebanese request to lift the diplomats' immunity on Saturday.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said earlier he had asked judicial authorities to decide whether the diplomats could be tried by Lebanese courts for the murder.

He said there had been no agreement yet on who would look after the interests of

(Continued on page 3)

## Bomb explodes in Tehran

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A bomb destroyed a parked car at a busy intersection in central Tehran on Tuesday morning, injuring passers-by. Tehran Radio blamed saboteurs sent from Iraq.

The injured included two women who were carrying children. Iran's official IRNA news agency said. They were taken to hospital.

Witnesses said the blast smashed the windows of a fruit shop, a supermarket, a tailor's shop and a stationery store on the corner of Saadi and Enghelab avenues.

The car which was blown up was parked near pillars supporting an overpass but the structure was undamaged. Tehran Radio said several passing cars were damaged.

Reliable security sources say the Iraqi regime has recently sent four bombers to Iran and today's blast was carried out by these saboteurs," the radio said. It gave no other details.

Iran has blamed Iraqi agents for explosions in Tehran and other cities in the past, including big truck bombs which killed scores of people in the capital in the 1980s.

The bombings started soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution and peaked in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Some two hours after the blast about 20 policemen and soldiers were standing around the intersection but traffic on the overpass and on the street was back to its normal, heavy flow.

IRNA said no group had claimed responsibility for the attack, the second bombing in the capital this year.

The Palestinians want Israel to give a firm timetable for setting free all 8,500 prisoners, including Hamas supporters.

## Lebanon plans to put two Iraqi diplomats on trial

The Syrian-backed Lebanese government cut ties with Baghdad on Monday and ordered Iraq's diplomatic mission to leave within 72 hours.

The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Zafir Al Munawar, relayed the orders to Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Awadh Fakhri on Tuesday.

Mr. Fakhri did not comment on plans to put the diplomats on trial, but told reporters Iraq observed international conventions and agreements between Baghdad and Beirut.

Witnesses said about 70 policemen, many in plain clothes, tightened a cordon round the Iraqi embassy.</

## Oman leads Gulf Arabs in contacts with Israel

By Youssef Azmeh  
Reuter

MUSCAT — The Sultanate of Oman, at the eastern edge of the Arab World, has taken the lead in recognising publicly that the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 means eventual Arab cooperation with Israel, Western diplomats said.

A new round of multilateral negotiations on harnessing the Middle East's scarce water resources opened in Muscat on Sunday, bringing Israeli officials for the first time to a Gulf Arab state.

The diplomats said Oman's decision to take the lead in the Gulf was not surprising, but they noted that it did not mean diplomatic recognition of the Jewish state, an issue that remains dependent on Israel's progress in establishing peace with its immediate Arab neighbours.

They said the country under Sultan Qaboos for the past 24 years had consistently followed discreet and independent policies often at odds with the Arab consensus

or the views of partners in the Saudi-dominated Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Its minister of state for foreign affairs, Yousef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, said on Sunday a centre to be set up in Oman to research economic ways of making drinking water from the sea would be open to all states attending the Muscat talks.

This was a clear reference to possible Israeli participation as the Jewish state is at the cutting edge of desalination technology and has already offered to share its expertise.

"The Omanis see this as a logical extension of the peace process but they will continue to move cautiously and discreetly," one diplomat said.

Omani officials say the sultanate's distinctive foreign policy is born of realism, self-interest and a long-term perspective that does not pander to emotion and short-term concerns.

"They have always been slightly different from their neighbours... they do not follow the herd," another diplomat said.

### Ben Alawi on Israel TV

A SENIOR OMANI official on Monday gave a rare interview to an Israeli television station during the first visit to a Gulf Arab state by an Israeli delegation.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah told Israel Television the Arab Gulf states could establish ties with Israel only after the Jewish state achieved peace with neighbouring Arab countries, especially Syria.

"I think first there has to be real progress in the situation between Israel and its neighbours, especially Syria, so all in the area can feel there is a working peace agreement including withdrawal from the occupied lands of the Golan (Heights)," the minister said.

The diplomats said it was not surprising that the other Arab country that has reached a similar state in

relations with Israel is Morocco, which is at the western extreme of the Arab World.

Oman was one of only two Arab countries that did not cut diplomatic ties with Egypt after the late President Anwar Sadat made peace with Israel in 1979. Egypt remains the only Arab state officially at peace with Israel.

Oman maintained friendly ties with Iran throughout its 1980-88 war with Iraq when other Gulf Arabs openly backed Baghdad.

It did not cut ties with Baghdad after Iraq's 1990's invasion of Kuwait although it opened its military facilities to the Western allies who drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who is leading the Israeli team at the Muscat session, has had contacts with senior Omani political and economic officials on the margins of the talks.

Neither side is ready at this stage to say who those officials are because Oman remains officially committed to the Arab economic boycott of Israel. It has already come

under fire from Syria for hosting the Israelis.

The Omani minister said on Sunday that present contacts with Israel should be seen in the framework of international Middle East cooperation involving all nations of the region.

Israelis travelling with Mr. Beilin say they are aware that by coming to Oman they were entering the Gulf by back door.

"But it breaks the taboo. Others are soon to follow."

The soldiers were killed in crossfire between militias of the Habre Gedir and Hawadie clans, which had been fighting since Saturday in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, said U.N. spokesman Major Chris Budge.

Several Somali sources said the fighting started as a dispute between two men over a loudspeaker and developed into a shooting battle between the rival clans.

The Nepalese soldiers who were killed were staffing an observation post near a strategic intersection connecting routes from U.N. headquarters to the airport and seaport. Their names were not immediately released.

In the southern town of Afmada, the head of the town's mission of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was killed by gunfire when militiamen shot at his plane as it touched down on the airstrip.

Abdaji Saneh, 54, of Gambia, was hit in the head and died en route to the southern port city of Kisimayu, about 60 kilometres to the southeast, said Millicent Mutuli, spokeswoman for the U.N. refugee office.

The militiamen were trying to prevent a worker for a Somali aid organisation from getting on the plane. The pilot and four other passengers on the plane were uninjured.

Mr. Mutuli said for the second time this year the refugee agency would evacuate its staff from Afmada.

Meanwhile, Tom White, chief of technical services for the Somali U.N. mission, said the \$3.9 million was taken in a break-in that apparently occurred before dawn Sunday. An investigation was underway.

earlier on Monday warned that it would punish any pilgrims found carrying banned political books, pictures or leaflets. It said some pilgrims were found to be carrying banned material when they arrived in the Kingdom ready for this year's Hajj.

In 1987, some 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes in Mecca between security forces and Iranians holding a political rally.

Iran's ruling clergy often urge pilgrims to hold rallies at the Hajj to condemn what they see as the main enemies of Islam — the United States and Israel. Iranian pilgrims are also known to carry pictures of their Muslim leaders.

A Saudi official said on Friday the kingdom had told Iran its pilgrims would not be allowed to hold any political rallies or activities this year.

## Riyadh says all must abide by Haj quota

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said on Monday all Muslim states must abide by an agreed 1988 quota on the number of pilgrims coming from them to perform the annual Hajj pilgrimage in the kingdom.

The Saudi cabinet, after a weekly meeting in Riyadh, said "all Islamic countries should abide by the quota agreed by foreign ministers of Islamic countries in 1988 which Saudi Arabia has been abiding by since then."

The statement was issued by the Saudi Press Agency.

The quota sets the number of pilgrims from each country as one in every thousand Muslims and is meant to ease congestion in Mecca and Medina while work is underway to expand facilities at the Muslim holy cities.

Iran has complained that Saudi Arabia was this year

trying to limit the number of Iranian pilgrims to below 60,000.

Iran has for the past three years sent 115,000 pilgrims and said this was part of a deal in which Tehran and Riyadh restored ties and ended a three-year Iranian boycott of the pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia has consistently denied that a special deal was agreed with Iran on the number of pilgrims to the Hajj, which is performed by an estimated two million Muslims every year.

After Iran's defiance of a ban on political rallies at the Hajj last year, Riyadh was insisting on strict observance of the quota and has made clear it would not consider Iran's proposal to send 120,000 pilgrims in May this year.

The Saudi Interior Ministry

earlier on Monday warned that it would punish any pilgrims found carrying banned political books, pictures or leaflets. It said some pilgrims were found to be carrying banned material when they arrived in the Kingdom ready for this year's Hajj.

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## Kuwait rejects Iraqi statement on annexation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Monday dismissed as "playing with words" a statement by Iraq that it had long ago dropped its claim to the emirate it occupied in 1990-91.

"There is no way Iraq can play around with words like this," said Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah.

"It is our belief and the belief of the international community that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations with regard to (U.N. Security Council) 833, the prisoners of war and many other matters," he said in brief remarks by telephone.

"We still insist on full implementation of all Security Council resolutions."

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hummadi told a news conference in the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Saturday that Iraq had dropped its territorial claim.

Officials in the region have said the Gulf conflict cannot be finally settled as long as Iraq continues to refuse to recognise Kuwaiti sovereignty and a new boundary demarcated last year by the United Nations. It must also address a broad range of issues ranging from Gulf war compensation to its alleged holding of Kuwaitis and others detained during its occupation.

Mr. Hummadi said Iraq, which invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and whose troops were forced out the following February, had long ago revoked its occupation-era annexation of Kuwait as its

19th province.

The Iraqi National Council (parliament) has revoked the annexation decision, and this was approved by the (ruling) Revolutionary Command Council and the United Nations was notified of this," he said.

Mr. Hummadi was believed to be referring to a March 1991 decision by parliament and the Revolutionary Command Council revoking Iraq's post-invasion annexation of Kuwait.

Kuwait and its major allies discounted that move, made in the immediate aftermath of the Gulf war. It has been followed by three years of statements by Iraqi officials, government newspapers and parliamentarians continuing to refer to Kuwait as part of Iraq.

Sheikh Saud said the March 1991 moves were an "internal matter." He said Kuwait wanted Iraq to assert recognition of Kuwait unequivocally and in an international context.

U.N. Security Council 833 of May 27, 1993 demands Iraq and Kuwait respect the inviolability of the international boundary as demarcated by a U.N. border commission last year.

Prominent among other Kuwaiti demands is the return of more than 600 Kuwaiti and three country nationals Kuwait says Iraq still holds from the occupation period.

Iraq denies it still holds anyone detained during the occupation.

## U.N. peacemakers see Afghan military might

HERAT, Afghanistan (R) — A United Nations peace mission looking for ways to reconcile Afghan warring factions watched a parade of military might on Monday on the second anniversary of the Mujahideen takeover in Afghanistan.

On the anniversary of the week in which ex-communist President Najibullah fled from office in Kabul and guerrillas marched into the city of Herat, some 630 kilometres west of the capital. There was no sign of a resolution of the two years of internecine fighting.

"Be vigilant because the enemy is killing our sisters and brothers in Kabul," Herat Governor Ismail Khan told crowds of tens of thousands of people lining city streets.

"Those are not good people who are fighting in Kabul and playing with the blood of the people of Kabul," said the governor, who is allied with embattled President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"Your fighting has defeated the Soviet army and now you are fighting a much smaller army," Mr. Khan told his troops. "Don't let the enemy destroy all our people."

Mr. Khan was addressing a delighted crowd after a triumphant drive through this ancient city accompanied by U.N. peace mission chief, former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. He did not identify the enemy.

His remarks appeared to be a veiled reference to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his new ally northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Mr. Mestiri is visiting cities through Afghanistan, a country trying to recover from 15 years of war, to gather proposals for a ceasefire and a peace solution to end bloody battles that have killed 2,000 people in Kabul since the new year's day.

More than 11,000 people, mostly non-combatant civilians, have died in two years of battles for supremacy among quarrelling parties constituting the government since they took over from the Najibullah's collapsed administration.

Mr. Najibullah remains a virtual prisoner in a U.N. office in Kabul, where he sought refuge after failing to flee after advancing rebel forces amid palace coup in early 1992.

In Herat, a powerful governor has kept the peace in the city and the surrounding areas for more than a year.

On the second birthday of his rule, Ismail Khan paraded Soviet-manufactured tanks, U.S.-made Stinger missiles, uniformed former guerrillas and camels laden with rockets across their humps.

Afghanistan does not belong to one or two men or one or two parties," he said. "Afghanistan belongs to the Afghan people."

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Other flights (Terminal 2)

## 3 U.N. personnel killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Two U.N. peacekeepers and a U.N. refugee official were killed in two separate incidents Saturday.

Israels travelling with Mr. Beilin say they are aware that by coming to Oman they were entering the Gulf by back door.

"But it breaks the taboo. Others are soon to follow."

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In 1987, some 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes in Mecca between security forces and Iranians holding a political rally.

Iran's ruling clergy often urge pilgrims to hold rallies at the Hajj to condemn what they see as the main enemies of Islam — the United States and Israel. Iranian pilgrims are also known to carry pictures of their Muslim leaders.

A Saudi official said on Friday the kingdom had told Iran its pilgrims would not be allowed to hold any political rallies or activities this year.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PLO staffers convicted for racketeering

TUNIS (AP) — A Tunisian court has sentenced four Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) employees to up to 10 years in prison for counterfeiting and illegally dealing in foreign currency, Palestinian sources said Monday. The convictions Saturday followed a series of arrests, and one killing linked to a racketeering network run by staffers at PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital. The sources said a PLO bodyguard, identified only as Saeb, received a 10-year sentence, while seven-year terms were given to the remaining three: Mamur and A'd Al Laham and an employee identified as Abu Arab. The Al Laham brothers were arrested this month after police found more than \$100,000 in fake banknotes in a raid on their home earlier this month. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Abu Arab was working as a bodyguard to PLO representative in Germany Abdullah Freij. He, too, had been found in the possession of counterfeit dollars. A fifth Palestinian, Riad Sadek, who was held on charges of being an accomplice and is to be tried next month on charges of trafficking in narcotics, the sources said. A sixth employee believed to have been involved in the racket, Khalil Abu Moalek, was shot and killed in a shopping centre parking lot on April 1. Police arrested a suspect, identified as Jamal Salameh, condemned Abu Khalid, as he tried to cross into Libya four days later, according to other PLO sources. Palestinians officials declined to comment on the cases or say if the employees will be handed over, as is customary, to the PLO for punishment.

### Iran, Ukraine want expanded ties

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and Ukraine called for better use of their mutual resources by boosting cooperation in various fields, Tehran Television reported. The broadcast, monitored in Cyprus, said the call came in a meeting in Tehran between Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko. Mr. Zlenko told Mr. Rafsanjani that the resources of the two countries provided a good foundation for closer cooperation, the television said.

In the southern town of Afmada, the head of the town's mission of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was killed by gunfire when militiamen shot at his plane as it touched down on the airstrip.

Al-hajji Saneh, 54, of Gambia, was hit in the head and died en route to the southern port city of Kisimayu, about 60 kilometres to the southeast, said Millicent Mutuli, spokeswoman for the U.N. refugee office.

# Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1994 3

## Belgium, Jordan agree to set up Euro-information centre in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Belgian Ambassador to Jordan Pierre du Muelenaere Tuesday expressed hope that the planned Euro-information Centre to be set up in Jordan would serve as a catalyst for promoting Jordanian-European trade, particularly Jordanian-Belgian trade.

The ambassador, speaking to the Jordan Times after signing an agreement with Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf on establishing the centre, said that the Belgian government would be providing financial aid to the ministry to install the equipment and would provide training to personnel who would operate the centre.

Belgium would provide the aid immediately, and it is up to the Jordanian side to take steps to establish the centre so that services could be offered to Jordanian businesspersons in an effort to promote the trade links, said Mr. de Muelenaere.

Speaking after the signing ceremony Dr. Khalaf said that the centre is the fruit of close cooperation between the Bel-

gian and Jordanian governments in promoting the Kingdom's capabilities in exporting national products to European markets and attracting joint investments to the country.

Voice appreciation to the Belgian government for this assistance, Dr. Khalaf said the centre would be providing very useful information to Jordanian exporters and investors including information about industry and trade in Europe.

The agreement was in implementation of minutes that were signed last May in Amman during a visit to Jordan by the Belgian minister of foreign trade who held talks with government officials and businesspersons on the establishment of the Euro-information Centre to facilitate trade exchanges between Jordan and European markets and to help Jordan open new markets for its products abroad, said Dr. Khalaf.

The projected centre, which would start operations by June this year, is expected to open direct channels of contact between Jordanian and Euro-

pean organisations and firms dealing with industry, trade and agriculture and contribute towards increasing foreign investments in the Kingdom, added Dr. Khalaf.

She said the new centre would be housed at JEDCO (Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation), which is affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The centre would be directly linked with Euro-information Centre in Belgium which would provide European information to Jordanian businesspersons, added the minister.

Apart from providing the cost of the equipment and training, said Dr. Khalaf, the Belgian government would bear the cost of periodic publications in Europe as well as the cost of contacts between the Belgian centre and others in Europe concerning the link with the Jordanian centre, and the Jordanian government would cover the cost of running the Amman centre.

## Jordan seeks EBU help in upgrading media services

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Jawad Anani Tuesday called on the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to help Jordan promote its information and media services, especially radio broadcasting, and help transfer modern technology to the Kingdom.

Addressing the Engineering Committee of the EBU, which opened a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre Tuesday, the minister said it is regrettable that Jordan is still technologically far behind in radio broadcasting, and the country is concerned that it is merely benefiting from other achievements rather than playing the role of participant and partner.

It is hoped that the EBU will help Jordan become competitive in its endeavours through radio broadcasting, said Dr. Anani.

He said Radio Jordan will be interested in benefiting from the EBU's contributions towards further promoting communication and media services.

In welcoming the EBU participants to their five-day meeting, Radio and Television Corporation Acting Director General Ibrahim Shahzadeh said he hoped that the EBU meeting in Amman, the first to be held outside Europe, would benefit Jordan's media development and pave the way

for a wider degree of mutual cooperation.

Mr. Shahzadeh said the corporation would be placing its facilities at the disposal of the participants, who represent 46 countries, to ensure the meeting's success.

Discussions will cover a wide range of topics in radio engineering services, recording and broadcasting and EBU's relations with other similar world organisations.

The participants represent radio and television stations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Japan, Australia and South Korea in addition to several concerned world organisations.

## World union supports Arab women

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — About 160 women representing 70 countries expressed their solidarity with Arab women seeking to restore legitimacy to banned women's organisations in all parts of the world.

In a statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting held in Paris on April 9-10, the World Democratic Women's Union (WDWU) expressed its support of and solidarity with efforts aimed at providing a dignified life for Arab women living in areas of conflict.

"We express our solidarity with Arab women who are fighting to obtain equal rights," said the statement signed by women participants

who represent 83 organisations.

The conferences lent support in their statement to all the efforts exerted to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict; the implementation of United Nations resolutions regarding Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon; giving the Palestinian people their legitimate rights; releasing all detainees including women; lifting the embargo on Iraq, Libya and Aqaba; solidarity with Sudanese women; release of all women prisoners; and solidarity with Algerian women.

The World Democratic Women's Union, which includes 136 organisations in its membership representing 129 countries, elected Sylvie Jeanne, head of the French Women's Union, as its president and Mayyadah Abbasi, a member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Women's General Union, as vice-president. Enitite Naffa' from Jordan was elected as a member of the union's executive committee.

"There was a general feeling among participants that women should exert more efforts and unify their ranks to acquire their rights," said Ms. Naffa' after her return from the two-day conference. "The level of discussion and the amount of work that had been executed before and during the conference is promising."

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Regent receives message from Pakistani Premier

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received a message from Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto. The message was delivered to Prince Hassan by the visiting Pakistani Minister of Industry and Production Mohammad Asghar, who was received in an audience by the Regent. Prince Hassan and the Pakistani minister reviewed the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The audience was attended by the Crown Prince's special advisor, Mohammad Saqqaf, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

#### Princess Basma holds women's briefing

IRBD (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday briefed a women's meeting in Irbid, on the National Strategy for Women and stressed the women's role at the district and governorate level. Princess Basma emphasised

the important role women can play in shaping their own future and changing the society's traditional outlook on women's roles. She said she hoped that women at the district levels can come up with a mechanism that would ensure the smooth implementation of the strategy's objectives. The meeting drafted an agreement to form a preparatory committee, which will be entrusted with working out a preliminary plan to translate the strategy into action at the local levels.

#### Awqaf minister meets visiting delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Tuesday met at the King Abdullah Mosque the delegations which participated Monday in the Kingdom's celebrations marking the completion of renovation works at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Dr. Abbadi briefed the delegations on the role of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in preserving and protecting holy places in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

#### implementing regional training programmes.

Israel's proposal was the first to be endorsed by the water working group which has held several meetings before Muscat.

The United States, European Union (EU) members, Japan, Canada and the United Nations all offered to help on that score, and Mr. Herbst said the first course will begin in June in the United States.

"I think we are delighted that Oman agreed to host this session," he said. "It brings the parties of the region to the Gulf."

Added the American official: "This is a very significant step (because) it demonstrates further progress in the peace

## Ship hauling tractor parts for Iraq turned away

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea has denied entry to another Aqaba-bound vessel on grounds that it was carrying "unauthorised" spare parts for Iraq, shipping officials said Tuesday.

They said the Polish-flag Monufzko, which had among its Jordan-bound cargo 30 tonnes of spare parts for tractors imported by the Iraqi government, headed for Port Suez to unload the consignment.

The inspectors ruled that the U.N. approval for the spare parts dated back to November 1993, and as such it was no longer valid," said one of the officials.

The parameters that the inspectors apply to determine the validity of U.N. approvals were not immediately known. But, according to U.N. diplomats, there is little coordination if any at all between the inspectors and the

#### U.N. Sanctions Committee.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 of April 1991 exempts food and medicine as well as items related to food and medicine from the sanctions the world body imposed on Iraq in August 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

As such, spare parts for tractors are exempt since they are used in the agriculture sector to produce food. Exemption certificates are issued by the Sanctions Committee, which comprises 15 members of the Security Council itself.

The absence of coordination between the inspectors and the sanctions committee became apparent in several instances when the inspectors rejected the committee's certifications saying they were forged.

The authenticity of the documents was established in all cases, but not before ships carrying cargo covered by them were turned away from Aqaba, leading to severe losses to importers.

The Monufzko, which is carrying nearly 500 tonnes of general cargo, most of it in 30 full containers, would return to Aqaba after the "suspect" cargo is off-loaded at Port Suez, the officials said.

The Monufzko, operated by a Chinese-Polish joint venture, was the 14th ship to be intercepted and denied entry to Aqaba this year by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq patrolling the Red Sea. In 1993, they turned away 20 ships.

The 13th intercepted vessel this year, the Ikan Seleyang, which is carrying newsprint and unprocessed sanitary paper for the Jordanian market, continued to wait at the Tiran Straits on Tuesday for the third day running after it was prevented from proceeding to Aqaba.

The vessel's agents and other concerned parties are continuing contacts with the U.S. naval command in Bahrain to get clearance for the ship to proceed to

Aqaba," said one shipping source who preferred anonymity. "The stand-off was continuing as of Tuesday afternoon."

The Ikan Seleyang was denied entry because the sea-based inspectors ruled that the Jordan-bound cargo was accessible for inspection, the shipping officials said. In addition, the inspectors also demanded "accessibility" to cargo stowed in the holds of the vessel destined for other ports, they said.

If it was denied permission

after the contacts and rearranging cargo for fresh inspections, the Ikan Seleyang will sail off to Dubai, where it will unload the 4,000 tonnes of cargo destined for Aqaba, they added.

The escalated interception of Aqaba-bound ships has prompted Jordan to haggle its return to the 29-month-old U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace process on an end to the blockade of the Kingdom's only seaport.

In line with this stand, Jordan

has proposed that the sea-based inspections by the U.S.-led task force be replaced by on-shore inspections at Aqaba by a neutral, international, non-profit organisation without infringing upon the Kingdom's sovereignty.

Officials have said that Washington had sought "clarifications" on the proposal and that Amman had provided them.

## Lawyers, parliamentarians to study German systems

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of six prominent Jordanian lawyers and parliamentarians have been invited by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany to conduct a study of German legal and political systems between April 20 and 30, according to a foundation statement Tuesday. The statement said that the six individuals would acquaint themselves with the German systems through visits to courts of constitutional and administrative jurisdictions.

These include the Federal Constitutional Court, and the Federal Supreme Court and institutions for the protection of the German constitution, and would have meetings with members of the Bundestag (the German parliament) and the states' parliaments, high ranking officials at the Federal

The statement added that the invitation was a follow-up to a seminar on democracy and the rule of law organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in November 1992 in Jordan.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### BALLET

★ Ballet performance (Swan Lake, Bolero, Romeo and Juliet) at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

★ The Amnesty International-1 Second Annual Festival for "Art...and Music and Human Rights" by Mirage musical band at the Palace of Culture at 8:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ American Promotion Week '94 at the Amman International Motor Show, Airport Highway (12:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).

★ Exhibition by artist Mustafa Al Hajaj at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 587596).

★ Art exhibition by artist Latifa Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artists Alia Ammousha, Dorothy Mango, Hind Naser, Janine Saaf, Lucy Marto, Tete Wegelin at Ab'd Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

★ Exhibition of calligraphy at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Paintings exhibition by Jordanian and Lebanese artists Jamal Khamsi and Jehad Abu Saleh at Alia Art Gallery (9:30 -13:30, 15:00-18:00) (Tel. 639303).

★ Graphics exhibition by artist Burhan Saleh Mohammad at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Pincemin at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348).

★ "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).

★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Alia Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 36 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibeh (Tel. 643251/2).

## Iraqi diplomats

(Continued from page 1) Lebanese and Iraqis in each other's countries.

The 19-member Israeli team, was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi said on the sidelines of the conference that cooperation with Israel was possible but only after it resolves its problems with its immediate Arab neighbours.

He suggested Israel could help in Oman's mineral mining operations.

Syria and Lebanon have boycotted all multilateral conferences, insisting on a breakthrough first in their bilateral peace negotiations with Israel.

Arab demand that the Iraqi embassy hand over two other suspects who sought refuge there after the assassination of former Prime Minister

By Natasha Bakhru Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Nurses' Union (JNU) is demanding overtime compensation for its government-employed members on par with other government employees.

"We have been forced to take legal action as our demands have been neglected by the government for over two years now," JNU Director Nazeeb Bzour told the Jordan Times on Tuesday.

According to the Labour Law, employees working for government-supervised institutions are to be compensated for any extra work over the maximum six working hours per day. Nurses work for eight hours per day and receive no compensation for the extra time, said Mr. Bzour, adding that this "mis-treatment" is negatively affecting nurses' quality of work because they feel underprivileged.

According to the present

Labour Law, employees should earn an extra 30 percent of their wages for every extra working hour. In the case of nurses the law is not being enforced despite continuous demands that nurses be treated fairly, said Mr. Nazeeb.

"The Ministry of Health has not been cooperative and we have been hearing nothing but empty promises for years," complained Mr. Bzour, explaining the reason behind the JNU lawsuit against the Ministry of Health.

According to Kamal Nasr, the union's legal consultant, the Ministry of Health is currently studying the JNU's earlier demands, but has not yet taken action on them.

Mr. Nazeeb said that the Ministry of Health has tried to "blackmail" the JNU to force them to drop their case; he said that Mahmoud Shehab, the ministry's secretary general has threatened to reduce nurses' working hours to six a day, increase the number of shifts and withdraw all privileges the ministry provides nursing staff including housing, food and transportation.

Such a proposal is not in the ministry's best interest because it will increase its financial burdens, and these "threats" only reflect how much nurses' work is undermined, Mr. Nazeeb said.

"Nursing staff are becoming frustrated and are talking about going on strike," said Mr. Nazeeb, adding that he personally was against taking such measures, but that he fully supports their demands.

"We will not give up and we will demand to acquire what is legally and legitimately our right," he persisted.

The country has a shortage in nursing staff and the government's attitude towards their (nurses') rights discourages others from taking up this career, which contradicts the country's national interest, Mr. Nazeeb said.

This is something the government should take into consideration, added Mr. Nazeeb.

Japan urges Jordan's private sector to boost ties via investment, tourism

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

## Jordan Times

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## A paralysed U.N., again

**U.N. SECRETARY** General Boutros Ghali's request for wider mandate for military intervention in Bosnia to protect the six areas declared as safe zones by the Security Council is obviously a bitter lesson drawn from the inability of the international community to honour its decision to declare Gorazde a safe haven. The 19-day Serbian onslaught on the Gorazde enclave is straining the joint NATO-U.N. presence in that country to the limit and is making the two organisations look impotent in the face of Serb defiance. Mr. Ghali's urgent call for added powers to deal with the situation in Bosnia comes in stark contrast with his earlier reluctant posture on military air strikes to halt Serbian advances.

Much water has crossed under the bridge since last year and the U.N. chief is now more convinced than ever that it is the credibility of his organisation, not to mention that of NATO, which is at stake.

With President Bill Clinton and other Western leaders virtually washing their hands of Gorazde's imminent fate by declaring that further air strikes against Serb gunners is ruled out, the secretary general must have been pained by NATO's unwillingness to follow up on its initial military involvement. NATO's initial raising of the stakes for the combatants and later its abandonment of its declared stance at a time when it was most urgently needed, must have made the U.N. and its secretary general feel deserted mid way in the continuous efforts to settle the armed and political conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

With even Moscow growing impatient with its Serbian allies over their tactics in conducting peace talks while pursuing military objectives, the Russian opposition to Mr. Ghali may have been a bit of a surprise. Moscow has traditionally stood opposed to any efforts to expand the powers of the U.N. secretary general. The traditional Russian preference to have the Security Council alone assume powers on international and regional peace and war issues appears to be the single most important reason why the Russian ambassador to the U.N. voiced immediate objection to Mr. Ghali's attempts to assert himself as a powerful international figure able to take action on matters already decided by the Security Council. The controversy goes beyond the immediate problem in Bosnia and touches the heart of the matter as far as the international organisation is concerned. Mr. Ghali seeks an effective international leadership and is supported to a great extent by the Western capitals. Fearful of Western hegemony over the U.N., China would join forces with Russia in expressing reservations about Ghali's quest for greater mandate. The cold war era that paralysed the U.N. in the last four decades appears to be back with vengeance. Bosnia appears only to be the new clashing point of a renewed cold war.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday addressed the visit of the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabil Berri to Jordan describing it as yet another chance to help bring together the Arab parties involved in the peace process. The ideas brought by Mr. Berri and his call for consolidating coordination between Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), reflect Lebanon's keen interest in rallying the Arabs' efforts vis-a-vis Israel's defiance, said Mahmud Rimawi. Mr. Berri's visit was timely, coming amidst an Israeli escalation of air raids on southern Lebanon, Israeli leaders' threats against Jordan for allegedly harbouring Hamas and Israel's offer to Syria to conclude peace with it in exchange for an Israeli pullout from the Golan, said the writer. At the same time, Israel has not softened its stand with regard to a pulling out from Palestinian lands in compliance with U.N. resolutions, and this stand together with the common threat to the Arabs should prompt them to unify their ranks, said the writer. Mr. Berri discussed these issues in Amman, expressing bitterness at the prevailing Arab situation which lacks coordination, according to the writer, who urged the Arab parties to take immediate action towards forming a united bloc in the face of the Israeli challenge.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expressed the view that Hamas-orchestrated bomb blasts inside Israel lent support for the Palestinian leadership and strengthened the position of the Palestinian negotiators with Israel. Mazen Hammad said that indeed the bomb blasts made the Israeli leaders realise that the Palestinian masses were not satisfied with the way the peace negotiations were heading and demanding a quick action towards an Israeli pull out, an objective sought diplomatically by the Palestinian leadership. It goes without saying that had the bomb blasts not occurred, Mr. Rabin would not have declared that his government was planning to restrict or remove the Jewish settlements, said the writer.

## Uncertain stands Europe

### Increasing EU membership could delay progress towards united foreign policy

By Paul Ames  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union (EU) plans to take in four prosperous new members, extending the reach of the powerful economic bloc into the heart of central Europe and north to Russia's Arctic frontiers.

If Austria, Sweden, Norway and Finland join as planned on Jan. 1, they will enlarge the union to 16 nations, 375 million people and an economy worth \$7 trillion a year. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of the United States, Canada and Mexico has 360 million people in a \$6 trillion economy.

Such expansion warms the hearts of those who dream of building a European superpower to rival the United States. But some Europeans believe increasing the membership will only delay progress towards united foreign and defence policies.

"A common foreign policy comes from common interests, not from a declaration in a treaty," said Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London. He said larger membership will make it "even more difficult" to define those common interests.

Supporters of ever-closer ties among European nations fear the newcomers will join Britain in defending national sovereignty against visions of a "United States of Europe."

Also, the NATO-aligned majority will have to

accommodate the neutrality of Sweden, Austria and Finland.

Nor did negotiations with the four candidates boost confidence in Europe's ability to unite. Before they were completed a month after the March 30 deadline, foreign ministers spent weeks quarreling about how to adapt voting procedures and share out Norway's fish stocks.

While they wrangled, others took the lead in Bosnia and the Middle East, two areas where the European Union had once hoped for diplomatic success.

The treaty on European

ly happen."

In January, the bloc appeared to recognise this when its foreign ministers appealed for American help to end the killing in Bosnia. That was a far cry from a declaration in 1991 by Foreign Minister Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, then the EU chairman, that European diplomacy would end the war quickly.

"This is the hour of Europe, not America," Mr. Poos said on his way to the first of many EU peace missions. All of them failed.

The treaty on European

Mr. Eyal of the London Institute was less diplomatic: "Their initiatives in the Middle East were a disaster.... On Yugoslavia, they spent three years bickering like fish wives."

Hans Van Den Broek, foreign affairs chief of the EU Executive Commission, acknowledges a rocky start for the common foreign policy.

"What we have seen so far... should certainly be followed by more visible, concrete and cohesive actions," he said in an interview. Mr. Van Den Broek feels the union must simplify decision-making if it wants "to perform a role corresponding to its economic weight and political responsibility."

Member nations have scheduled a conference in 1996 to do that, clarify foreign policy and strengthen the new defence arm, the Western European Union.

As usual, however, they disagree about how to do it.

Some hope the conference will push the union towards a federal state with its own constitution. Others are determined to defend national sovereignty, and the neutral newcomers are wary of a common defence.

But all realise change is necessary to make the union work and continue growing.

Its potential for growth is enormous. In addition to the four nations scheduled to join Jan. 1, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic want in by 2000 and a dozen others from Malta to Estonia are knocking at the door.

**"If Austria, Sweden, Norway and Finland join as planned on Jan. 1, they will enlarge the union to 16 nations, 375 million people and an economy worth \$7 trillion a year. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of the United States, Canada and Mexico has 360 million people in a \$6 trillion economy."**

U.S. and Russian Diplomats pressed for peace in former Yugoslavia with some success, and the United States became the broker in Israeli-Arab talks.

"It demonstrates what American leadership can provide," Stuart E. Eizenstat, U.S. ambassador to the European Union, told the Associated Press.

"Europe is beginning to come together. But even with that, they still need the entrance of the world's only superpower to make things full

Union, which took effect last November, created stronger links among the 12 members and gave the EU executive more power to forge a united foreign policy. But squabbling among governments and complicated rules for making decisions have got in the way.

"Yugoslavia does point out the limitations of the common foreign and security policy," Mr. Eizenstat said. "It's very hard to manage a military crisis with 12 foreign ministers."

By Alison Smale  
The Associated Press

VIENNA — Just as the Bosnian war appeared to be winding down, it sparked an international crisis that threatened to spin out of control.

In its endgame, the war is inevitably more dangerous. The Bosnian Serbs, backed to some degree by their traditional ally Russia, and the Muslim-led government each seek all they can get.

Tensions peaked over Gorazde, a Muslim enclave in southeastern Bosnia under Serb siege for most of the two-year war.

On April 10, Bosnian Serb forces were closing in on Gorazde. But their leaders were negotiating a Bosnia-wide ceasefire, and international mediators were confident a truce would be signed, saving the 65,000 people in Gorazde.

Then something went badly wrong. Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic did not halt the offensive. When the United Nations tried to reach Gen. Mladic that day to tell him to stop, he was on the front lines.

Hours later, U.S. fighter jets bombed Serb positions. The U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, called the jets in to protect U.N. observers and British liaison officers in Gorazde. More bombs fell last Monday.

With NATO making the first ground attack in its history, Gen. Mladic appeared to have badly underestimated the world's will to come to Gorazde's rescue.

But, in the Balkans, politics is played like poker. Instead of throwing in a still-strong hand, Gen. Mladic and his backers simply raised the stakes.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the region's power broker, set the tone by saying the NATO bombing showed the United Nations was biased in favour of the Muslim-led government.

That was the cue for the isolated Serbs to cut yet more ties with the outside world.

In Serbia, 13 foreign correspondents were stripped of their credentials, accused of waging a "media war" against Serbs. Bosnian Serbs expelled American journalists from their territory.

The Bosnian Serbs also seized or surrounded about 150 U.N. peacekeepers, in effect using them as hostages against further bombing raids.

Lt. Gen. Rose wanted more air strikes on Friday, when a British liaison officer was wounded in Gorazde and needed evacuation.

But the U.N.'s top civilian commander in Bosnia,

before he would talk to them again Sunday.

The Serbs agreed to hold fire, pull back nearly two miles from the town centre, and allow 350 U.N. peacekeepers into the enclave. Yet on Sunday, Serb tanks rolled into Gorazde about the same time as Bosnian

sian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Sunday, after holding urgent talks with Mr. Milosevic the day before in Belgrade.

The Bosnian Serbs, their Muslim and Croat foes and the international community have wanted to end the war for more than a year. But they could never agree on terms.

If a settlement is reached over Gorazde, the way may be clear for a final peace in Bosnia. International mediators could seize the momentum and press for the overall truce they had thought was close.

After that, they must persuade the Bosnian government to swallow a settlement under which the Serbs will almost certainly give up some of the 72 per cent of Bosnia they now hold — but only in exchange for their own state and close links with neighbouring Serbia, for which they have shed blood for two years.

**"As with the removal of Serb heavy guns from around Sarajevo in February, in the Gorazde crisis only the Russians proved to have leverage with the Serbs."**

More air strikes were ordered. But they were called off when Gen. Mladic's troops shot down a British sea harrier on Saturday as it approached for the first bombing run.

Mr. Akashi came as close as the United Nations has come to pulling us entirely, demanding the Serbs release U.N. personnel and hold fire

Serb leaders agreed to a ceasefire with the United Nations.

As with the removal of Serb heavy guns from around Sarajevo in February, in the Gorazde crisis only the Russians proved to have leverage with the Serbs.

"Today must be a starting point for the reverse movement away from war," Rus-

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1994

## LETTERS

### Poor robbers, rich dealers

To the Editor:

RECENT REPORT of tomb-robbing in the Ghor Al Safi (ancient Zoara) by Cable News Network (CNN), the Jordan Times and others are upsetting for more than the obvious reasons. True, that pillaging of this important Bronze Age and Byzantine site has meant a great loss to our archaeological knowledge of the area. But worse is the grim reality that the only ones who are punished are the poorest citizens of Jordan struggling to support their impoverished families. Even more tragic, as CNN pointed out, are the youth involved in these activities, who have never known a stable job, and see tomb-robbing as the only source of income. We are "working," said one young man. And they are.

On the other side, demand for antiquities by wealthy Jordanians and foreigners will never be curbed. There is a strong psychological attraction to owning a piece of history, part of the past which can be linked to our present. Some of these antiquities may also have artistic value which can be the source of immense pleasure to the possessor. Private collectors may actually appreciate antiquities much more than scholars or museum curators. So why deny them this?

The dealers are the third part of the antiquities trade. They have the most to gain financially and the least to lose. They mark up their prices 100-1000 per cent above what they originally paid the desperate tomb-robbers. Often, they even arrange antiquities to be exported from Jordan itself! This is an even greater tragedy for the heritage of the country, especially at a time when the tourism industry needs to be developed, and requires archaeological attractions.

The recent reports of tomb-robbing in the Ghor Al Safi have forced the government, with the aid of the army, to protect what is left of ancient Zoara. They have also mounted a campaign to arrest those involved in the illegal antiquities trade. So far they have only rounded-up some of the poor tomb-robbers — will they be the scapegoats?

The government should give more support to the Department of Antiquities by helping them save what is left of ancient Jordan. As an immediate measure, salaries for site guards should be increased from the JD 35-70 per month. Perhaps private tour operators and Friends of Archaeology could help pay for this. An even better long-term strategy should be developed giving priority to excavate endangered archaeological sites such as Safi or Azraq rather than safer ones at Petra, Jerash or Amman.

Konstantinos D. Politis,  
Archaeologist,  
Ghor Al Safi.

## Unwarranted reaction

To the Editor:

I wish to comment on the letter from Rodica G. Ma'ayta to the Jordan Times (April 12) in which she attacks a letter from Mrs. G. Woodward (Jordan Times, April 7-8).

I am quite sure that Mrs. Woodward did not mean any offence against Arabic programmes in her letter. She was just making the point that perhaps Arabic programmes ought to be shown on Channel 1 (The Arabic Channel), as opposed to Channel 2, which like her I also believed to be the Foreign Channel, as it shows programmes in French, Hebrew, English and sometimes German.

We "foreigners", (and I am British, not American), are well aware that we are guests in this wonderful country, and I am sure we all appreciate it. I would guess that most of us watch Channel 2, while most Jordanians watch Channel 1. Many of us would not understand the language on Channel 1, which brings me to the subject of football. Most commentaries on it are not in our languages and therefore should be shown on Channel 1. Rodica Ma'ayta states, "lately it (football) has become very popular with ladies as well" — is there any proof of that? Personally I detest football and switch off as soon as I would like to see more of other sports instead. We have had far too much football on Channel 2 lately — a bit more often than "every now and then"! I would like to suggest that in the programme announcements and in the Jordan Times we could be told what is to be shown on both Channels, then we could decide if we want to watch an Arabic series or football on Channel 1!

The story line of "End of a Brave Man" was good, but the series could have been condensed into less showings as there was a lot of repetition in it. I do agree with Mrs. Woodward that the English subtitles were not good enough, with their "poor timing, wrong spelling, letters left out and poor English usage". I doubt if many people would have taped the whole series as it was 27 hours long and nine 3-hour tapes would have been required!

As to soaps and movies, while these may not be to everyone's taste, they are a way of taking one away for a short time from life's problems and the daily violence and horrors we see in the news. Life would be very dull if there was not a bit of light relief to brighten it up sometimes. As the old saying goes — "You cannot please all of the people all of the time".

On many occasions we have not been shown the programmes advertised because of political news. This we all appreciate is of great importance, but do we have to have it four times in three hours on Channel 2? On the other hand the News in English at Tea doesn't show some items of interest shown earlier in the Arabic news (both on Channel 2), such as archaeological finds and the progress at Taibah, as it stops after 15 or 20 minutes. It would not hurt to add a few minutes into it to show these items.

Finally, I would request Jordan Television (JTV) to give us back our relaxing warm programme-announcement time which was accompanied by different pictures of life in Jordan until very recently. The new time is to my mind unsuitable, harsh, and the picture of a clockface very boring!

I would like to suggest that JTV puts a questionnaire in several editions of the Jordan Times to see what programmes foreigners really like to watch. I for one would be happy to fill it in.

Miss Chris Larter,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

# Features

By Dr. Khairi Amr

OWING TO the increased archaeological activities at Petra during the last decade which resulted in the discovery of large numbers of artifacts, the Department of Antiquities saw the necessity for another museum to represent the city considered the prime touristic attraction in Jordan.

This new museum was conceived to function in conjunction with the existing museum and not as a replacement for it, so that the old museum — presently inside a cave on the cliff of Al Habib — would house the larger architectural and sculpted stone objects, while the new museum in the modern building at the centre of the city would house the small finds from the excavations.

The new location was chosen for several reasons. It was noticed that by the time most tourists reach the city centre, they are too tired to climb up to the old museum. They settle to having refreshments at the cafes there, then turn back without seeing the items of daily life of the people who created the magnificent monuments of the city. The location of the new museum offers them the service without much additional physical strain.

Also, the modern building already houses the offices of the Petra Research and Restoration Centre of the Department of Antiquities, making the addition of a museum to the centre a natural choice.

The design of the museum was assigned to Neesreen Al Tal, an employee of the Department of Antiquities with a degree in fine arts. In her designs, she used many materials that were already available at the storerooms of the department in Petra, such as remnants of scaffolding wood for building the display cases.

All the other materials used in the museum were bought locally in Amman and Wadi Musa, and the execution of all the work was done by craftsmen from Amman and Wadi Musa, as well as employees of the Department of Antiquities.

The majority of the artifacts on display came from the stores of the Department of Antiquities in Petra and Amman. Only a few selected items on display were rehoused from the Petra and Amman museums. The texts (in Arabic and English) accompanying the displays are written to offer information at two levels: specific descriptions of the objects on display, as well as more detailed information on the context, history, typology and technology of the objects for people wishing to gain more insight into the background of the displays.

## Entrance and the first hall

The museum is open to the visitor through two glass show cases displaying large storage jars from the Petra Church (dated to the sixth century AD). The museum is divided into three main halls. The first hall presents an introduction to Petra, with panels about the geology and history of the area, as well as selected displays of religious sculpture, pottery and the very important aspect of hydraulic engineering.



YET ANOTHER ATTRACTION: The ancient red rose city receives a new showcase for its history (photo by Aynsley Floyd)

## A tour of the new museum at Petra

such discoveries are important tools for archaeologists, because earthquakes affect large areas and comparing the cultural remains from destructions at one site can help in dating similar destructions at other sites of similar cultural history.

The second display in this special show case is dedicated to Nabataean trade, considered by some historians as the most important factor in both the rise and fall of the Nabataean kingdom. There is special emphasis on the incense route, of which the Nabataeans controlled the crucial section between the producers in southern Arabia and the consumers in the Classical empires.

The third display concerns Petra in the Middle Ages, which were truly dark in this case. There is a description of the excavations at the Crusader Castle of Al Wu'irah, and the text of the section from a manuscript of Al Nuweiri concerning the trip of Sultan Baibars from Cairo to Karak, with detailed descriptions of Petra in AD 1276.

The rest of the second hall is dedicated to selected archaeological excavations in the area, starting with the Neolithic village of Beidha — to the northwest of Petra — excavated under the direction of Mrs. Diana Kirkbride from the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. These excavations produced important data concerning daily life during the period of human settlement in a village community for the first time ever.

The second display is dedicated to the Tawilan excavations, directed by the late Crystal Bennett of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History. The site is an Iron Age settlement in the hills to the north of Petra, overlooking Wadi Musa. This unfortified village managed to survive the turbulent eighth to fifth centuries BC.

The affineness and wide-ranging contacts of the inhabitants are best illustrated by the hoard of jewellery (displayed in the jewellery show case), and the first cuneiform tablet to be discovered in Jordan.

The third display concerns the excavations of Az Zantur in the city centre, directed by Rolf A. Stucky of the University of Basel. These excavations deal with the little known aspect of domestic life in Petra. A Nabataean house from the first/early second century AD and two houses from the fourth century AD are the main foci of these excavations. Unfortunately, at the time of the setting up of the museum, most of the finds from these excavations were on loan to the Nabataean exhibition in Switzerland. These objects will be incorporated in the display as soon as possible.

The fourth display deals with the Zurrabah excavations, directed by Fawzi Zayadine and of the Department of Antiquities and the writer of this report. The site, which lies in the northern outskirts of Petra, was a major pottery manufacturing centre from the first century BC/AD up to the sixth century AD, making it the longest operating, and incidentally the largest, purely industrial area known in Jordan.

The fifth display exhibits finds from the Temple of the Winged Lions excavations, directed by Philip Hammond.

The writer works at the Research Division of the Department of Antiquities.

of the University of Utah. Examples of the lavish decorations of the temple proper are displayed, as well as finds from the adjoining habitation quarters and workshops.

The sixth display deals with finds from the excavations directed by Dr. Zayadine at the temple of Qasr Al Bint, Petra's most famous free-standing monument in the heart of the city.

The seventh and last display is dedicated to the Petra Church, the discovery of which was reported by the late Kenneth W. Russell in 1990. The field excavations were codirected by Dr. Zbigniew T. Flis and Robert Schick of ACOR and the writer of this report. This church, built in the late fifth century and destroyed in the mid-sixth century AD, has the only mosaics uncovered in Petra up till now.

### The third hall

The second and third halls are connected by a small display of jewellery and cosmetic items, including the outstanding fifth century BC gold and carnelian hoard from Tawilan. This is followed by a show case containing a large storage jar from the Petra Church, which opens up onto the entrance to the building.

In the third hall, groups of selected small finds are displayed. In the centre, facing the entrance, there is an L-shaped display of silver and bronze coins from Petra, which leads the visitor back to the first display to the right of the entrance. This first display contains ceramic lamps ranging in date from the Iron Age up to the early Islamic period, showing the development in the forms of these items of daily use. The lamps on display include one Nabataean lamp with an inscription at the base.

The corner between the first and second displays is occupied by another show case opening onto the outside. This case contains a smaller storage jar from the Petra Church, while the second display is dedicated to figurines, with examples of beautiful cast bronze objects. Next to these is a selection of terracotta human and animal representations, and small stone and bone sculptures.

The display opposite the entrance to the third hall contains examples of ceramic bowls and plates, including the famous Nabataean painted bowls. The painted objects range in date from the early first century AD up to and including a very rare example of a sixth century painted bowl from Zurrabah.

The corner between the last two display cases is occupied by a small case containing four closed cooking pots, this being the most common form. The last display, of ceramic small jars, bottles and jugs, also contains examples of painted Nabataean pottery.

The writer works at the Research Division of the Department of Antiquities.

## Turkish farmers await promised water

By Suna Erdem  
Reuter

SANLIURFA, Turkey — Gold-toothed Halil Karaliman sat at a desk in white Arab robes, gazing at a slide showing how to irrigate his land in southeast Turkey.

"We'll have three crops a year and make lots of money," he enthused in Arabic, as another farmer translated into Turkish.

Mr. Karaliman, 62, hopes his life will be transformed when irrigation water begins to flow to his arid land as a result of Turkey's efforts to harness the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

"It is one of the world's biggest regional development schemes," said Olay Uner, president of the Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP), intended to enrich 10 million Arabs, Turks and Kurds in an impoverished region torn by a Kurdish insurgency.

Turkey hopes that GAP, covering an area of 75,000 square km or more than twice the size of Belgium, will help to soothe the decade-old revolt led by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has cost more than 11,000 lives.

Turkey's tightening grip on regional water alarms its downstream neighbours Syria and Iraq, but intermittent differences have failed to resolve differences.

GAP, which employs Turkish engineering and construction firms, aims to create 3.5 million jobs and quintuple the income of the region, which covers a tenth of Turkey's land area but generates only four per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In the process, GAP will change traditional ways of life on the Harran Plain, legendary home of Adam and Eve, first in line for water from the giant Ataturk Dam across the Euphrates.

"(GAP) signals a complete change in the people's relations with the land and with each other," said Yakin Erturk, a sociologist at Ankara's Middle Eastern Technical University.

"But technical developments lead to problems for the community, especially in an area of turmoil," she added.

Land reform authorities have begun the struggle to initiate peasants into the complexities of irrigated farming.

"Many do not come, they stay and work their land, and many just believe that more water means more crops and do not take in what I teach," said Omer Cetin, teacher of Mr. Karaliman's group.

He is grappling with language barriers in an area where educational standards

are low and many peasants speak Kurdish, Arabic or Syriac more readily than Turkish.

Harran farmers are locked in a near-feudal system in which tribal chiefs and big landowners known as agas own villages, take most of the harvest and control voting at election time.

Ms. Erturk said a modified Aya system might suit the demands of irrigated farming, which needs investment in machinery and fertilizers beyond the reach of small farmers with big families.

Harran villagers still wear traditional baggy trousers and live in conical mud huts that dot the plain, but many have television sets and some even boast satellite dishes.

Mr. Uner said they must embrace new agriculture-related industries such as textiles, canning and fertilizers. He said irrigation and crop rotation could quadruple grain harvests and allow the introduction of soybean beans, maize and other seed crops.

Fish will be farmed in the reservoir behind the Ataturk Dam and economic growth will attract more people to the region and stimulate a boom in construction. Mr. Uner predicted.

GAP eats up a third of Turkey's deficit-ridden budget and fuels inflation, now at an annual 73 per cent, but many of the project's touted benefits still lie in the future.

Turkish began generating electricity at the Ataturk Dam in 1992. But a money dispute has stalled work on the twin Sanliurfa tunnels, the world's longest at 26 km each, which will deliver water from the dam to the Harran Plain.

The official target for releasing the first water is now May, but GAP experts privately doubt the deadline will be met.

Some people, such as the 2,000 villagers relocated to the Spartan new township of Yeni Samsat, say the Ataturk Dam has flooded their ancestral homes and destroyed their livelihoods.

"I don't think the non-agricultural side of GAP is being sufficiently developed," Ms. Erturk said.

"People are becoming unemployed without the wherewithal to live."

Some local people have grown sceptical that GAP will deliver its promise of transforming their depressed economy.

"Many people here are too poor, uneducated and lazy for the region to develop itself much," said Muslim Karabag, 27, who drives a minibus in Sanliurfa town.

## Jailed Noriega spends days studying appeal, lawyers

By Jane Sutton  
Reuters

MIAMI — Since his cocaine trafficking conviction in 1992, former Panamanian强人 Manuel Antonio Noriega has been widely portrayed as a solitary prisoner who devotes his days to spiritual pursuits and munching biscuits.

"Today, his favorite pastimes are his daily package of Oreos cookies and well-worn Bible," newswoman Diane Sawyer noted during a rare interview he granted to ABC television.

But his lawyers, who recently filed an appeal to overturn the conviction, paint a different picture. They told Reuters Mr. Noriega spends most of his time poring over his trial transcript and helping prepare his appeal.

"He's read every chapter, verse and word of the transcript," attorney Frank Rubio said. "I think he's very optimistic about the appeal. He's not one of these guys who lays down and dies, ever."

And, said Mr. Rubio, "if the truth be known, I eat most of his Oreos."

Mr. Noriega surrendered to U.S. troops during the December 1989 military invasion of Panama. He was convicted on eight counts of conspiracy and cocaine racketeering and is serving a 40-year term at a federal prison near Miami.

The lawyers said Mr. Noriega is well treated although held in isolation in what has been nicknamed "the Dictator's Suite." He still blames President George Bush, who authorised the

exclusion of the documents from his trial. U.S. district judge William Hoeveler precluded him from defending himself. His lawyers said the documents show that Mr. Noriega amassed millions of dollars through secret U.S.-Panamanian operations including anti-drug operations U.S. officials helped organize.

Mr. Noriega also keeps in touch with Cliff Branson, the Texas Evangelist who baptised him at the Miami federal courthouse during a break in Mr. Noriega's lengthy trial.

For the ceremony, a baptismal font made of glass fiber and oak was brought into the courthouse so the general could be fully immersed.

Mr. Noriega's lawyers said his new faith in God is sincere.

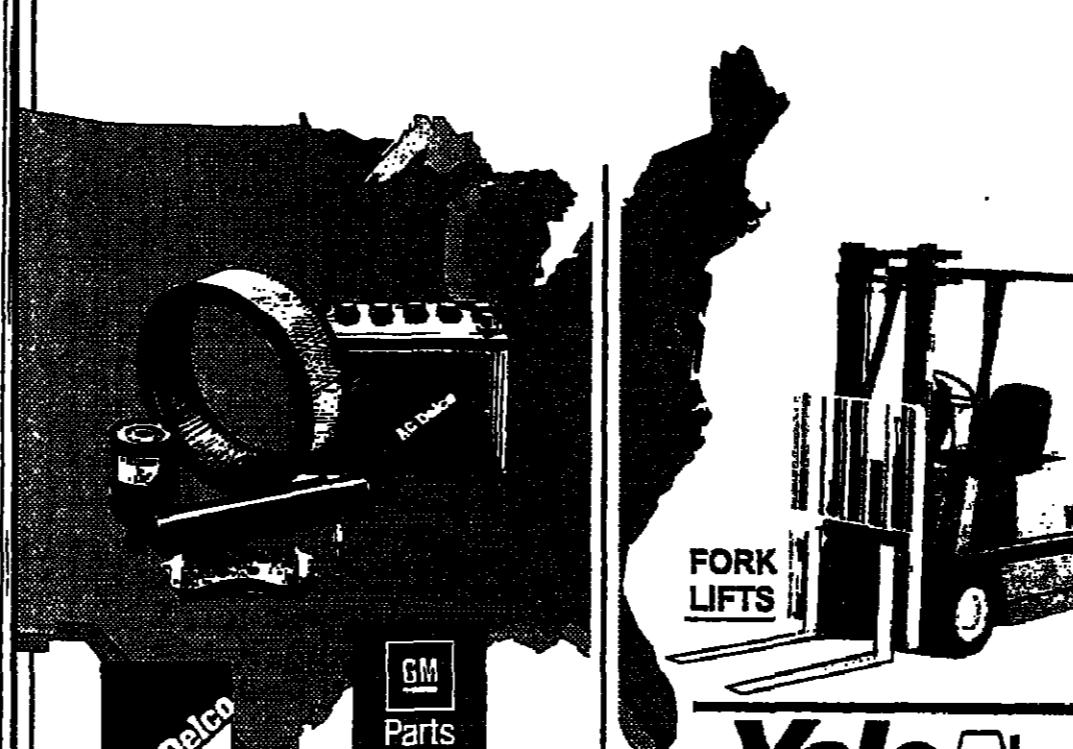
"People make fun of jailhouse religion conversions. But the reality is, when you're faced with loss of contact with your family and the loss of everything that you've worked for all your life, it makes sense that the only thing people can turn to is a spiritual dimension," Mr. Winick said.

Mr. Noriega's appeal also seeks to overturn the conviction on grounds that he was entitled to diplomatic immunity and because the invasion was a "shocking" action to nab a suspect.

Judge Hoeveler ruled the invasion was part of a broad foreign policy to protect U.S. citizens in Panama.

Since his conviction in Miami, Mr. Noriega has been convicted twice in absentia in murder trials in Panama. One involved the death of an outspoken Noriega critic, the other the death of a rebel army officer who led a failed coup attempt.

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## U.S. central bank raises rates again

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The Federal Reserve (Fed) has built some new barriers to inflationary pressures it believes are certain to intensify as the vibrant U.S. economy expands in the year ahead.

The Fed Monday sanctioned a  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent increase in the closely-watched federal funds rate that banks charge each other for overnight loans to 3.75 per cent.

In the process, according to analysts, the U.S. central bank made it clear again that it would pursue its own agenda even if it differed from the view from the White House.

"I think the Fed again demonstrated its independence," said Michael Moran of Daiwa Securities.

The White House, which fears that if the Fed becomes too heavy-handed it will derail the recovery, refused, however, to be drawn into a public argument with the central bank.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the administration believes the U.S. economy will continue to expand with modest inflation and that the Fed action was spawned by the strong recovery.

"Our view hasn't changed. We continue to see continued growth with very low inflation and will continue to operate on that assumption," Ms. Myers said.

However, she declined to be more precise, adding that the "Fed is an independent agency and we're not going to comment on their specific actions."

The Fed's independence has become an issue in recent months as pressure has been building on Capitol Hill for the central bank to be less secretive in its actions.

In fact, the Fed appeared to take this criticism to heart, again announcing its decision to raise rates rather than waiting to take actions in the markets to make its position known.

Analysts generally expect the central bank to raise short-term interest rates at least one more time this year. That increase could come as soon as May 17, at the next meeting of the Fed's policy market committee.

The Fed move is likely to lead to higher mortgage rates for home buyers and increased borrowing costs for credit card users, car buyers and corporations. It came on the heels of a string of economic indicators showing that growth remains strong.

That has sparked some worry at the Fed that the economy will soon begin straining against its capacity constraints, tempting companies to raise prices and workers to demand higher wages.

The economy soared at a seven per cent annual clip in the fourth quarter of last year — its best performance in 10 years, although growth has cooled off since. The slowdown has not been as pronounced as had been widely expected, fanning fears at the Fed of future inflation.

As the White House is quick to point out, inflation so far does not appear to be a problem. Consumer prices rose just 2.5 per cent in the first quarter, compared with a 2.7 per cent increase in the last year.

But the Fed is looking ahead to next year and does not want to run the risk of throwing away the hard-fought gains it's made in recent years in fighting inflation by keeping interest rates too low now.

## Japan-Arab Gulf trade falls sharply

**DUBAI (R)** — Japan's trade with the six Arab Gulf oil states fell sharply in 1993 due to a fall in oil prices and a rise in the yen, official figures have shown. Figures released by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) showed Japan's exports to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) fell by 8.4 per cent to \$8.8 billion from \$9.6 billion in 1992. "A sharp increase in price caused by the appreciation of the yen affected the demand for Japanese goods," the report said. Japanese imports — mainly oil — from the six states, fell by 7.9 per cent to \$23.6 billion from \$25.6 billion.

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## West urges E. Europe to keep pace of reform

**ST. PETERSBURG (R)** — Western finance ministers are urging eastern Europe to keep up a fast pace of reform.

Speaker after speaker at the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) argued that those countries which had moved fast were already seeing the results, while those which had delayed would suffer anyway.

The Western ministers argued that the EBRD, set up to help eastern Europe on the transition from central planning to free markets, could succeed only if policies in the reforming countries were right.

But many acknowledged that the West could do more than offer exhortations, advice and cash, by opening up its markets to the products of eastern Europe's new private industries.

Britain's Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, who arrived in St.

Petersburg from Warsaw where he could observe the recovery for himself, said Poland and the Czech Republic looked set to be the fastest growing major economies in Europe this year.

"Experience has shown that a critical mass of structural reform implemented with speed is the best way of promoting transformation," said Mr. Wible, outgoing chairwoman of the EBRD government.

Reformed communists, in power in Poland and likely to be so soon in Hungary, have insisted they are as committed to reform as the first post-revolutionary governments.

But populists from Slovakia to Russia have called for a gradual approach to ease the pain of higher prices and rising unemployment which come from liberalisation and restructuring.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary

Lawrence Summers, said there was no alternative to getting on rapidly with the hard work of stabilisation, liberalisation and privatisation.

That recipe of fighting inflation, freezing prices and trade and selling off state firms was exactly what Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocanik ascribed his country's success to.

He was speaking for the country many see as the model, of reform.

But Mr. Summers, himself a top economist, dismissed the idea that reforms had brought suffering.

"It is a grave error to blame reform for the pain caused by the collapse of the failed communist economic system. Where reform has been most rapid, suffering has been least, and those economies that have postponed reform have not

avoided declining output or rising unemployment," he said.

Many speakers praised the Russians for bold and innovative reforms, especially in privatisation, but others singled out countries of the former Soviet Union for failure to change.

"In a number of successor states to the former Soviet Union there was little evidence of willingness to embrace reforms," German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said.

Ministers from East and West said reforming countries should not forget to set up targeted social safety nets to protect those suffering from reform as general subsidies were removed.

But the social cost of not reforming, for instance inflation and stagnation, would be high, Ms. Wible warned.

## Deutsche Bank defensive over Schneider collapse

**FRANKFURT (R)** — Deutsche Bank A.G. Tuesday remained on the defensive over its role in the collapse of the Schneider property empire, saying it made no significant errors in granting loans to fugitive businessman Juergen Schneider.

The country's biggest bank and Mr. Schneider's biggest creditor was accused of "gross negligence" as it continued to be the target of a barrage of criticism over how Mr. Schneider could amass bank debts of five billion marks (\$2.92 billion).

In an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Deutsche Bank board member George Krupp conceded the bank would review its procedures for making large loans.

But he added, "we have no knowledge of grave mistakes at the bank."

Deutsche Bank has been criticised on the one hand by Frankfurt state prosecutors for holding back information relating to the demise of the billion-mark property group, a claim the bank vehemently denies.

In addition, the bank has been lambasted for being deceived by Mr. Schneider about the value of the properties for which he sought credits.

One of the most biting criticisms came in a commentary in the Tuesday edition of the respected Sueddeutsche Zeitung. The newspaper focused on

its procedures for making large loans.

the 415 million marks (\$242.6 million) Deutsche Bank lent to Mr. Schneider for the Zeil-Galerie, an up-market shopping centre in the Frankfurt city.

Deutsche Bank has said the documents provided by Mr. Schneider showed the centre would offer 20,000 square metres of space for rental purposes and was expected to bring in rent of 57 million marks (\$33.32 million) a year.

In fact, the rentable space was only 9,000 square metres and the rent only eight million marks (\$4.68 million) a year.

The Suessdentsche Zeitung added, "anyone who maintains he was unable to see through such a deceptive manoeuvre is at least admitting gross negligence."

"Net asset taxes may prompt savings to flow into non-taxable areas and foreign countries. They may lock the eco-

## Turkish businessmen criticise Ciller tax package

**ANKARA (R)** — Turkish businessmen fear Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's plans to impose one-off taxes as part of an austerity package could trigger a full-scale recession.

They voiced concern that her proposals to raise 70 trillion lira (\$2.1 billion) in new taxes could send some firms to the wall, accelerate capital flight and depress stocks and bonds.

Ms. Ciller wants to slap one-off taxes on second homes and luxury cars, and increase petrol tax and stamp duties, but businessmen reserve their main criticism for her plan for a tax on assets, expected to bring in 41 per cent of the new revenue.

"Net asset taxes may prompt savings to flow into non-taxable areas and foreign countries. They may lock the eco-

nomy," Selami Sengul, a tax expert and auditor of the Capital Markets Board, told Reuters.

Ms. Ciller's conservative-Social Democrat coalition government submitted a draft tax law to parliament last week as part of an economic rescue package unveiled on April 5.

Companies would pay an additional 1.5 per cent tax on their net assets or 0.5 per cent on gross revenues.

"Such a tax can bring trade and industrial firms to the point of closing down," Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (Tusas), the main business lobby, said this week.

Tusas advised the government not to tax assets, but to tax gross revenues in the financial sector and equities in others.

Apart from raising revenue, the government also sees the new taxes as a way to redistribute the overall tax burden by lowering the share of wage earners by five points to 43 per cent.

Mr. Sengul said asset taxes would force banks to reduce their investments in stocks and bonds. They would also lead to higher interest rates, more un-

employment and slower economic activity.

"Financial institutions will dissolve their portfolios to pay net asset tax obligations. This will create a run on securities."

A five per cent capital levy on earnings from government bonds, treasury bills and repurchase agreements, imposed in December, had destroyed the domestic borrowing market — the treasury's main source for financing widening budget gaps.

The government cancelled the levy in January amid chaos in the financial markets, but banks have since refused to roll over the debt and buy new state borrowing instruments.

Last year the government drafted three laws to increase tax revenue, equivalent to about 27 per cent of gross national product in 1993, but parliament approved only one of them.

It will apply to 1994 earnings, boosting the tax take in 1995.

Other parts of Ms. Ciller's rescue plan call for quick privatisation or closure of loss-making state firms, selling public property and slashing public spending.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Harry Arnold and Mike Argirio

NAGLD

PIRRO

UNGOAT

BRUNAU



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SHYLY VISOR VESTRY GHETTO

Answer: What the romantic snake offered the cutesy serpent — LOVE AND HISSES

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be more agreeable as today with associates than the Sun enters Taurus. Rise above some difficulties aspects and make this a productive day in spite of the obstacles. Rid yourself of disharmony.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your monetary position and figure out a way to improve it. Don't waste time on unimportant matters which could until later. Be wise.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) State your aims to others and gain their cooperation in reaching them. Think of new ways to be more proficient at your assignments.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan the future more intelligently and become more satisfied. Know exactly where you stand and where you are headed with any projects you are involved with.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A plan you have in mind needs more study before going ahead with it. Show more consideration for others that you encounter.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact higher-ups you know early in the day and get the backing you need. One in particular can be of real help to you now if asked.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Situations arise today

that can be advantageous for you if you are alert. Sideswipe one who could be detrimental to your progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good time to go after a personal aim since the planets are favourable for you now. Plan to make improvements to your environment for the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can come to a far better understanding with associates at this time. Take advantage of a new situation at work which will be more productive.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure a new plan you have in mind is well organised so that you can enjoy the benefits in the future for you and your family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Bring your finest talents to the attention of higher-ups and gain added benefits. Do some entertaining tonight and you will have fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find more interests through which to express your best talents. But don't take any risks with your fine reputation which could get tarnished.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use practical methods in handling important business matters for best results. Evening is fine for the cultural side of life for you.

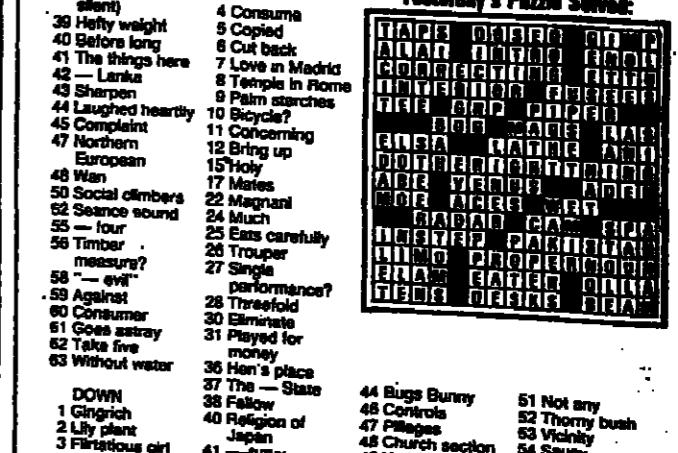
## THE Daily Crossword

by Frances Burton

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



## Peanuts



## Mutt'n'Jeff





## S. Africa concludes election deal

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa's political leaders struck a deal Tuesday to bring Zulu royalists into next week's historic all-race elections, sources close to the talks said.

The leaders, negotiating against a background of surging violence in a black township on the fringe of Johannesburg, were expected to announce their deal formally later in the day.

"Within an hour the big news will come. Why do you think they have called (Independent Electoral Commission head) Judge (Johann) Krieger... it is because Inkatha will officially join the election process," one source told reporters.

The deal, worked out during crisis talks in Pretoria on Monday and Tuesday, will bring the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party into the April 26-28 elections.

"This is the big news South Africa has been waiting for. No more civil war. No more war-talk," said government source.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who has been holding out for virtual self-rule in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, had been boycotting the poll.

His nephew King Goodwill Zwelithini had said Zulus

should not vote in the poll which will end three centuries of white domination.

Mr. Buthelezi, President F.W. De Klerk and officials of the African National Congress, which is favoured to win the polls, held several hours of talks Monday.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, almost certain to be South Africa's first black president, joined the discussions at the union buildings in Pretoria Tuesday.

Witnesses in Natal said Inkatha had started putting up election posters in the port of Durban in Natal.

Some sources said the deal could allow Mr. Buthelezi to take part in a national ballot. But others said there might only be time for him to fight provincial elections.

One potential problem was amending millions of ballot papers to include Inkatha. A total of 80 million ballots have been printed for the national poll to elect a government of national unity and provincial elections.

The Zulu king has been demanding sovereign authority over South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus, the country's largest ethnic group. Sources close to the talks said the deal included constitutional guarantees on

the future of the Zulu monarchy.

In the black township of Tokoza, South African security forces, Zulu hostel dwellers and ANC gunmen fought an intense gunbattle Tuesday.

Fighting centred around the Angelo Hostel, home to migrant Zulu workers, and spilled into surrounding streets and alleys where ANC supporters live. At least one person was shot dead there, following the shooting of a news photographer Monday.

The weekend death toll in the black townships around the commercial capital Johannesburg was 19 — the highest since February when the South African Defence Force was wounded by gunfire.

South Africa's fledgling national peacekeeping force, made up of regular troops, troops from outgoing black homelands and former guerrillas, took over in the area last Wednesday.

More than 15,000 South Africans have died in political violence since 1990 when Mr. De Klerk began dismantling apartheid.

Much of the recent violence has been in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal where almost 240 people have been killed since Mr. De Klerk im-

posed a state of emergency there on March 31.

A top South African news photographer was killed and two working for international media were wounded by gunfire Monday.

They were caught in crossfire as rival ANC and Inkatha gunmen battled in Tokoza outside Johannesburg. A soldier from the National Peacekeeping Force was wounded in the same incident, witnesses said.

Ken Oosterbroek of the Star, a Johannesburg newspaper, died in a burst of gunfire from a Zulu migrant workers' hostel around which sporadic shooting had centred all morning. Reuters TV cameraman Mark Chisholm said.

Mr. Oosterbroek last week won a South African Press Photographer-Off-The-Year Award.

Greg Marinovich, a South African working for Newsweek magazine, was hit in the chest and underwent surgery at Natal Hospital.

Staff said Mr. Marinovich, a Pulitzer Prize-winner for his work in township, was "stabbed."

Photographer Juda Ngwenya, of Reuters, the World News and Information Organisation, received a flesh wound in an arm.



Ken Oosterbroek, one of South Africa's top news photographers, is held by fellow photographer Gary Barnard of the Johannesburg Star after he was killed by police gunfire in the Tokoza black township of Johannesburg (AFP photo)

## Khmer Rouge claims Pailin retaken

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian Khmer Rouge rebels have recaptured their former headquarters in western Pailin, one month after the government claimed to have made it their own. Phnom Penh-based guerrilla officials said Tuesday.

"We recaptured Pailin today, April 19 at 12:45 p.m. we seized eight tanks and destroyed seven," one official said, adding that government soldiers had fled in disarray across their own minefields."

The local Khmer Rouge office was still compiling details about the counter-attack, he said, refusing to give his name.

There was no immediate

official response from the government and no independent confirmation of the Khmer Rouge claim.

Cambodia's top army commander, General Ke Kim Yan, his deputy, Lieutenant-General Pol Saroeun, Defence Minister Te Banh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen had left Phnom Penh earlier and were meeting in Battambang Tuesday, government aides said.

Battambang was the government's forward base for the capture of Pailin from the Khmer Rouge on March 19.

Fighting between the rebels and army units had been reported within a 15-kilometres radius of the town ever since.

## Nixon in intensive care after stroke

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Richard Nixon was in stable condition in a New York hospital early Tuesday after suffering a stroke, his spokeswoman said.

Mr. Nixon, 81, the only president to resign his office, was admitted for observation and treatment with anti-coagulants.

"He had just come down for dinner when it happened. He's in stable condition now," said spokeswoman Kim Taylor in a telephone interview from his home in Park Ridge, New Jersey.

Ms. Taylor said Mr. Nixon's daughter, Tricia, was in the area when the former president was rushed to New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Centre. His other daughter, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, was on her way from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Nixon's wife, Pat, died last year.

"This is of course a very shocking thing. I think all Americans should now recall how much he has done for our country," Mr. Nixon's secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, told reporters in Los Angeles.

Dr. Kissinger said Pat Nixon's death had contributed to the ex-president's ill health.

"That was a really shattering experience for him and that took its toll. And the years have taken their toll," Dr. Kissinger said.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani rushed to the hospital but was unable to visit Mr. Nixon.

"At this point, he's not able to speak or see anyone. He's in stable condition he's not spoken yet he's not able to speak," Mr. Giuliani told reporters. Adding that doctors remained "optimistic, because he's in stable condition."

Mr. Giuliani's spokesman, Mammy Papir, said the mayor had spoken with Tricia Cox Nixon at the hospital but that the former president's doctors had vetoed a bedside visit saying "it was not the best thing to do."

Mr. Nixon's office said the former president suffered the stroke at his Park Ridge Home at about 5:45 p.m. est (2145 GMT) and was taken by ambulance to New York, where he was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S. sends reinforcements to Macedonia

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — The United States reinforced its only peacekeeping presence in former Yugoslavia, sending 46 soldiers to patrol this impoverished republic's border with Serbia. The soldiers — the first of 180 infantrymen who will replace Swedish troops on a six-month tour — flew into Skopje past 6,000-foot (2,000-metre) snow-capped peaks on a U.S. Air Force C-130 transport plane. Their arrival will increase to more than 500 the number of U.S. troops keeping watch over a rugged, ill-defined border that U.N. patrols have occasionally crossed unwittingly. Macedonia, a republic of two million people, was the only piece of former Yugoslavia to break away peacefully. U.S. army troops have manned observation posts on a 25-kilometre-long (15-mile-long) stretch of border since July 1993. They have reported frequently seeing and talking to Serb border patrols but no hostilities.

Gonzalez pledges to fight corruption

MADRID (AP) — His government dogged by scandals, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez tried to take the bull by the horns Tuesday when he announced new measures to fight corruption in his opening address to parliament during the annual state of the nation debate. "The government, fully assuming its responsibilities, considers it imperative to confront these problems and restore society's confidence," said Mr. Gonzalez. Throughout the day-long debate — predicted to be one of the most difficult he has had to face in 11 years in office — Mr. Gonzalez was expected to be assailed by opposition deputies over a recent wave of allegations that Socialist politicians and their allies have used public office for personal gain. The latest and most serious scandal concerns former Bank of Spain Governor Mariano Rubio, who is alleged to have obtained some 130 million pesetas (\$920,000) from insider trading while governor and not declared the money on his tax returns.

Poll: Mexico PRI candidate ahead

MEXICO CITY (R) — A poll published Monday in the state-owned El Nacional newspaper showed the Mexican ruling party's presidential candidate leading by a wide margin, backed by nearly a third of the people surveyed. The poll showed Ernesto Zedillo, the new candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) since last month's assassination of candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, was favoured by 32 per cent of the 1,100 people surveyed. The presidential candidate for the left-leaning Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, was second with 12 per cent support and conservative National Action Party (PAN) candidate Diego Fernandez De Cevallos was favoured by 10 per cent.

The figures show a slight dip in the popularity of the PRI candidate since Mr. Colosio was shot dead on March 23 while campaigning in the northern city of Tijuana. Twenty-eight per cent of those surveyed were undecided or stated no preference and the others supported smaller parties.

Gorbachev 'knew he would be toppled'

MOSCOW (AP) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said that shortly after launching his reformist perestroika policy, he feared he would eventually be toppled like one of his predecessors, Nikita Khrushchev. "We remembered the experience of Khrushchev, but we underestimated the reactionary forces of the past," Mr. Gorbachev told a conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of Khrushchev's birth, which fell Sunday. Mr. Khrushchev is best remembered for his so-called "thaw," a dramatic departure from the years of Stalinist terror that began with a secret speech to a Communist Party congress in 1956. Mr. Khrushchev proceeded to loosen the regime's grip and introduced certain freedom of speech, but left the structure and ideology of the absolutist Soviet state intact. He was ousted in 1964 by more conservative Communist Party apparatchiks and sent into forced retirement until his death in 1971. Mr. Gorbachev launched his own policy of reforms, known as perestroika or restructuring, in 1985. Two years later, he resurrected Khrushchev's name from official disgrace. At the conference, organised by his private foundation, Mr. Gorbachev said Khrushchev had a "great influence" on all Soviet reformers.

The TASS news agency reported.

## Indian troops raid militant hideouts; 20 killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Troops stormed a suspected militant hideout in a residential neighbourhood in Srinagar and one person was shot and killed, officials said.

Elsewhere in Jammu-Kashmir state, 19 suspected militants were killed Monday in some of the worst clashes this year. Four guerrillas were fatally shot when they attacked soldiers during a search operation in Badgam, a small town 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Srinagar. Four others were killed in a similar encounter in Bandipur town.

The sudden spurt in search operations signals a new toughness on the part of the military. The government has said it would send more soldiers to Kashmir to help the 300,000-strong force there to fight the four-year-old separatist insurgency.

Soldiers wearing flak jackets surrounded the Batmaloo neighbourhood with armoured vehicles and asked residents to assemble on the road and in a school building before storming a militant base inside a building.

Troops found 13 sets of Indian army uniforms, one rocket-propelled grenade, several kilograms (pounds) of explosives and an AK-47 assault rifle. I. Ramamohan Rao, a spokesman for the Jammu-Kashmir government said in New Delhi.

Rafiq Ahmad, an activist of the Hizbul Mujahideen, one of the biggest guerrilla groups, was fatally shot while trying to evade arrest during the search, officials said. But residents alleged that Mr. Ahmad was shot after he was arrested.

The opposing camp, led by the Socialists, insisted the pledge be left out.

Socialist Party leaders were due to meet early Wednesday to decide on a final course of action, said party spokesman Koji Masuda.

In a related development,

## Japanese coalition falters again in search for new prime minister

TOKYO (R) — The search for a new Japanese prime minister ground through its eleventh day Tuesday with leaders of the unwieldy ruling coalition once again arguing themselves to a standstill.

After countless delays and a near-collapse of the alliance, its leaders came close to ironing out policy differences that would have paved the way for the appointment of Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata to succeed departing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

But then the talks ran around over the wording of the coalition's position on tax reform in the new policy platform.

The coalition's mainstream conservatives, led by Ichiro Ozawa, demanded the policy statement include a pledge to increase indirect taxes to lessen the burden of direct taxes of Japanese salary earners.

The opposing camp, led by the Socialists, insisted the pledge be left out.

Socialist Party leaders were due to meet early Wednesday to decide on a final course of action, said party spokesman Koji Masuda.

In a related development,

key opposition figure announced he was abandoning plans to launch a new party and seek the premiership, a move that could have displaced the 58-year-old Hata as the leading candidate.

Ex-Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe dropped his plan to leave the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after it became evident that few supporters would join him.

"I can't support the coalition," Mr. Watanabe told reporters. "So I'm going to stay in my party to help reform it."

With Mr. Watanabe out of the picture, Mr. Hata has emerged as the leading candidate to win the vote in parliament and become Japan's sixth prime minister in five years.

Mr. Watanabe, 70, had hoped to strike a deal with the coalition by offering to bring over a large group of LDP defectors in exchange for endorsement of his candidate for prime minister.

Alliance members agreed to support the United Nations in its policy towards Pyongyang and cooperate with the United States and South Korea within the limits of its pacifist constitution.

Mr. Ozawa's conservatives retracted their demand that Japan consider revising its laws to let its military join any U.S. naval blockade against the Stalinist state, news reports said.

In a related development, a

United States has also sent Apache anti-tank helicopters to the South.

North Korea reacted bitterly Tuesday to the shipping of the Patriots, calling the move "dangerous provocative acts."

"No strong arm works with us. Should the United States and its lackeys dare provoke a war, we will answer it with a decisive counter blow to defend our Socialist system and the dignity of our republic," Mr. Perry told reporters en route to Seoul.

South Korea's anti-U.S. student activists and dissidents have protested against Mr. Perry's trip to Seoul because of his hardline statements in recent days against North Korea, thus raising tensions on the peninsula.

The North also denounced Mr. Perry's visit to Seoul.

"There is no doubt that the bellicose U.S. military boss and the 'civilian' war maniacs of South Korea will have nothing to discuss but war when they sit face to face and peace and reunification of Korea will

subsequently face a more grave threat," the North Korean daily said in a report carried by the official North Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

The North Korean president in an interview with the Washington Times Tuesday said that his country does not have the need, the will or the ability to make nuclear weapons.

"We will never have nuclear weapons. I promise you. Who can we use them against?" Mr. Kim said.

Mr. Kim said the Patriot missiles the United States sent to South Korea because of rising tensions on the Korean peninsula "are war weapons regardless of their use."

The North Korean leader also said Japan was "moving to arm herself with nuclear weapons" and this "presents a great threat to the peace and security" in Asia.

Asked about a North Korean diplomat who threatened North Korea would turn the South into a "sea of fire," Mr. Kim replied that the diplomat said "something which was out of place."

"Actually, we don't want any war," he said. "Those who like war are completely out of their mind."

## Message in bottle floats 7,000 km to holiday offer

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A message in a wine bottle tossed from a cruise ship off northern Japan took nearly six years to float 7,000 kilometres (4,350 miles) to Sibu, a palm-fringed resort island off west Malaysia's east coast. Penned by John Mutimer, the message read, "home before Christmas", and simply asked the bottle's finder to contact Mr. Mutimer at 64 Macceson Road, Lower Templestowe, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3107. Mr. Mutimer himself is in for a surprise should he contact the resort where a guest found the bottle — a dream holiday offer at Sea Gypsy village on tropical Sibu Island, off the east coast of the Malay peninsula and north of Singapore. Russell Fryer, 34, one of the resort's owners, told Reuters the resort has written to Mr. Mutimer but has not yet received a reply. "If he contacts us, we'll give him a free holiday," said Mr. Fryer, 34. He said a guest found Mr. Mutimer's bottle in February. The message, dated Sept. 1, 1988, said the bottle was being thrown off the Royal Viking Star. Enclosed with the message was a \$1 note.

## Hall to quit talk show

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fans unimpressed by Swiss team

GENEVA (R) — Switzerland may have reached the World Cup finals for the first time in 28 years — but home fans appear to be distinctly unimpressed. Only 4,500 tickets had been sold by luncheon Tuesday for Wednesday night's friendly against the Czech Republic at the 32,000-capacity Hardturm Stadium. Roy Hodgson, Switzerland's English coach, remains optimistic that a few more fans will show up. "Eventually, a good 15,000 could still come," said Hodgson. "Disappointing advance ticket sales is not always an indication of likely poor attendance on match day itself."

### Ardiles will stay with Spurs

LONDON (R) — Chairman Alan Sugar of beleaguered premier league side Tottenham pledged Monday that manager Ossie Ardiles will still be in charge next season — even if Spurs are relegated. Sugar told a television interviewer: "Ossie is staying even if we go down. Whatever happens, he'll be in charge at the start of next season." The London giants tormented relegation Sunday when they lost 2-0 to Leeds. It was their third defeat in a row and left them just two points above third-from-bottom Oldham.

### Padilla retains WBO title

ROTTERDAM (R) — American Zack Padilla retained his WBO junior welterweight title Monday when American challenger Harold Miller threw in the towel in the sixth round of their scheduled 12-round bout. It was the first world championship fight ever to be held in the Netherlands and was staged there as part of the WBO's policy to stage championship fights in new venues.

### Lenzi might sell Olympic medals

FREDERICKSBURG, VA. (AP) — Mark Lenzi says a lack of funds may force him to sell his Olympic gold medal to raise money for school. Lenzi, the 1992 Olympic 3-meter diving champion, said that unless he can find another way to pay the \$25,000 tuition, he will sell his medal to the highest bidder. "I really don't want to do it," the Stafford County native said during a telephone interview from Bloomington, Ind. "But if worst comes to worst, I'll have to... A lot of people ask me what it's like to be rich and famous. Well, I'm not rich." Lenzi, 25, recently decided to take the year off from diving. He has not ruled out a return for the 1996 Olympics, but his coach, Hobie Billingsley, said Lenzi is probably retired.

### Haiti players to seek asylum in Trinidad

PORTE-OF-SPAIN. Trinidad (AP) — Some of the 16 members of Haiti's national soccer team plan to request political asylum in Trinidad and Tobago, a United Nations official said. After failing to obtain asylum from the United States, the players said they wanted to return home. But after meeting twice with Guy Prim, a member of the U.N. commission on human rights, some intend to submit requests for asylum in this Caribbean island. "Seeking asylum abroad is a difficult decision to make, specially for 20-year-olds. Some of them are being pressured by relatives to go back home, but others are being pressured to stay," Prim said. Prim said players could request asylum in the United States after they become residents of Trinidad and Tobago.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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#### KILL THAT TRICK

Both vulnerable South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ 6 5 2  
K 4 3  
K 4  
+ Q J 10 7

**WEST EAST**  
Q 8 7 4 ♠ J 3  
K 6 4 2  
Q 8 3 2 ♠ K 10 8 7 5

♦ A K 9 6 2 ♠ 8 4 3

**SOUTH**  
A K 10 9  
Q 10 9 7 5 3  
Q 6  
+ 5

The bidding:  
South West North East

1 V Dbl Rdb 2 C  
Pass Pass 3 C Pass

4 C Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of +  
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## Bulls beat Hawks to stay in race

CHICAGO (R) — The Bulls blew a 22-point lead but regrouped in time to post an 87-70 win over the Atlanta Hawks Monday to stay in the running for the Eastern Conference championship.

Steve Kerr hit two key three-pointers in a decisive third-quarter run that carried the Bulls (55-25) to victory and moved them within a half-game of the Hawks (55-24) for the best record in the conference.

Horace Grant and Kerr each had 14 points and Scottie Pippen added 13 for Chicago, winners of 11 of their last 12.

Danny Manning had 16 points and Stacey Augmon and Craig Ehlo each chipped in with 12 for Atlanta, who were held to a season-low 70 points.

After being stampeded by a 17-0 Bulls' charge in the first half, Atlanta outscored Chicago 24-5 in a span bridging the

second and third quarters and tied the game 51-51.

Kerr and Toni Kukoc helped rally Chicago, who used a 12-2 run to rebuild their lead to 63-55 by the end of the quarter.

In Dallas, Charles Barkley had 28 points and 13 rebounds and sparked a late fourth-quarter rally as the Phoenix Suns defeated the Mavericks 106-97.

Kevin Johnson added 21 points and 14 assists and A.C. Green chipped in with 19 points and 14 rebounds for Phoenix, who won their fourth straight and moved into a third place tie with San Antonio in the Western Conference playoff race.

Jim Jackson scored 30 points and Jamal Mashburn netted 29 for the mavs, who were a dismal 14-44 from the field in the second half.

Phoenix led by just 90-87

with 4:42 remaining, but used an 8-1 run over the next 3:09 for a 10-point advantage, 98-88.

At Golden State, Chris Mullin scored a season-high 32 points and Mister Jennings sank six free throws in the final 1:16 of overtime to lift the Warriors to their sixth straight victory, 134-131 over the Los Angeles Clippers.

A layup by Latrell Sprewell with 1:39 to go in extra time gave the Warriors the lead for good at 128-126.

Billy Owens and Chris Webber scored 25 points apiece for golden state, who moved with 11-2 games of fifth-place Utah in the Western Conference.

Dominique Wilkins scored 37 points for the Clippers and became the ninth player in NBA history to score 24,000 points.

Norman denies making harassment allegations

LONDON (AP) — Andy Norman, who was fired 10 days ago as British track's promotions chief, Monday denied allegations that he accused journalist/coach Cliff Temple of sexually harassing a woman athlete.

Temple's body was found by a railway line in January in an apparent suicide.

Friends and colleagues alleged that Norman, annoyed by a story Temple had written, has spread rumours that the Sunday Times journalist had sexually harassed Shireen Bailey, one of the athletes he coached.

"I now want to make it clear that the allegations which have appeared are entirely unfounded and that there was no campaign of any kind by me against Mr. Temple," Norman said in a statement.

## Vialli, Lentini, Mancini out of World Cup roster

ROME (AP) — Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli, AC Milan forward Gianluigi Lentini and Sampdoria midfielder Roberto Mancini will not be on Italy's World Cup team for the finals in the United States.

The three were not on a provisional list of 31 players issued Monday by coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Vialli and Lentini, just recovered from serious injuries, were considered unfit for the World Cup, while Mancini apparently paid for his disappointing performance in the recent 2-1 exhibition loss to Germany.

Vialli, 29, with 59 caps and 16 goals with the "azzurri" (blue team), has just recovered from a broken foot which sidelined him for several weeks.

His three goals in Sunday's 6-1 triumph of Juventus against Lazio in a league game apparently did not convince Sacchi that he is back in top form.

Lentini, 25, had some unimpressive performance as he returned to action last month after recovering head injuries suffered in a nearly fatal highway crash in the summer of 1993.

Vialli and Lentini are the two most expensive players in Italian soccer history as the deal for their transfer to Juventus and Milan in 1992 reached as high as 40 billion lire (\$25 million).

Before signing with Milan, Lentini helped Torino reach UEFA Cup final in 1992.

Mancini, who one teamed up with Vialli at La Samp, helped the Genoa club with its first European trophy by capturing the cup winners' cup in 1990.

## Moroccan squad seeks cohesion, scoring punch two months before cup

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — With one eye on history and the other on reality, Morocco's national team is still seeking offensive punch and overall cohesion just two months ahead of the World Cup.

But the task did not look any less daunting after Morocco escaped with a last minute goal to win 2-1 against Luxembourg last month.

Competition in the Oranje-based Group F will be a lot tougher. The Netherlands, a World Cup favourite for many, Belgium, the group's top seed, and outsider Saudi Arabia make up the rest of the group.

Morocco heads into a three-week camp in France next month, and by that time, Blinda should start finding the right blend after months of experimenting with a host of players.

"We lack cohesion," Choueiri said. "Blinda has preferred to wait," before settling on a team. "I don't think it is a good solution," he said.

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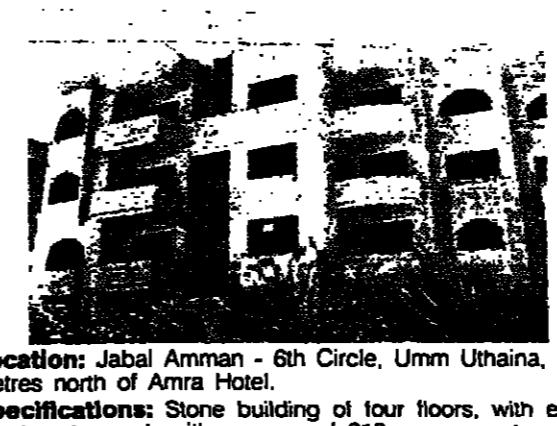
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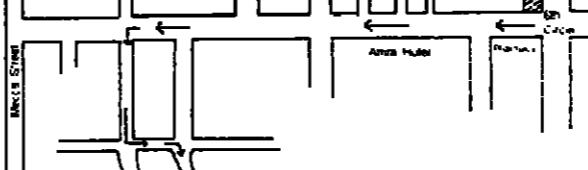
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J.D. 5 FAMILY  
J.D. 4 FAMILY  
J.D. 3 BOYS & GIRLS  
AT 8 P.M.

<b>TODAY</b>	Cinema <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Tel.: 634144	Cinema <b>PLAZA</b> Tel.: 699238	Cinema <b>CONCORD</b> Tel.: 677420	<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b> Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571	<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b> Tel.: 625155
	<b>TOM &amp; JERRY</b> Invite you to attend "Their Movie" as of at <b>CINEMA PHILADELPHIA</b> Tel.: 634144/634149 Performances: 11:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	Corey Haim & Corey Feldman, Nicole Eggert <b>BLOWN AWAY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CONCORD '1'</b> <b>MR. JONES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>The Assassin</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The political comedy play <b>FORBIDDEN</b> <b>FORBIDDEN</b> Every night at 8:30 p.m.	Coming soon Abu Awad in: The new comedy play: <b>"A PUNCTURED BAG"</b> Directed by Ghassan Al Mashni	The Political Satire "Ahlan Arab Summit Conference"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Kuwait speaker rejects Iraqi invitation

KUWAIT (R) — The speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament on Tuesday rejected an Iraqi invitation to visit Baghdad for talks on post-Gulf war disputes. "Whatever Iraqi officials said in the past we never bothered to reply. But this time we answer. So that they will not ask again," Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun, an opposition veteran, told parliament's weekly session. "We tell them that the invitation was heard by the Kuwaiti people and we turned it down," he said. The Iraqi parliament last week invited Kuwaiti parliamentarians to visit Baghdad for talks on outstanding issues, especially the fate of people missing since Iraq's 1990-91 occupation whom Kuwaitis believe are still held by Baghdad. The Iraqi assembly denied that Baghdad holds any prisoners of war from the occupation period. Mr. Saadoun said Iraq's offer appeared to be a bid to exploit policy differences between the Kuwaiti government and the opposition-dominated parliament. But on post-war issues involving Iraq, government and parliament were united. Mr. Saadoun said: "This is a message to all the world," commented Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah in brief remarks thanking Mr. Saadoun for his comments.

## Sudan sends election monitors to S. Africa

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has sent 19 officials to monitor South Africa's first all-race elections next week, a Khartoum newspaper reported on Tuesday. The government-owned Al Nasr said the officials left Sudan for South Africa on Monday. The officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the attorney-general's chamber and the national assembly were chosen because of their experience in elections in Sudan, it added.

## 54 appointed to Sudan's parliament

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has appointed 54 new members to the country's unelected parliament, the Transitional National Assembly. The decree, read on state television late Monday, said they were to fill places vacated by members of parliament who were given executive posts following the redivision of Sudan into more states. Several of the 330-member assembly have in the past two months been appointed governors and ministers in the 26 states created in Sudan in February.

## U.N. shocked at staff death in Somalia

GENEVA (R) — The U.N. refugee agency on Tuesday expressed shock at the killing of a staff member in Somalia and confirmed that a relief team of 10 people was being evacuated from the western town of Afmadow. It identified the man shot dead on Monday as his plane flew into Afmadow as Alhadji Kebba Sanneh, 53, a Gambian national (see page 2). "I am deeply shocked at this terrible incident," Sadako Ogata, U.N. high commissioner for refugees, was quoted as saying in a statement issued overnight in Geneva. "I hope that this death will remind Somali leaders of the trap they have plunged into and encourage them to renew their determination to find peace," she added. A spokesman in Geneva confirmed reports from Mogadishu that the agency would evacuate a team of 10 aid workers on Tuesday.

## New date set for Sidon trial

SIDON (AP) — The trial of two Palestinians accused of the 1984 killing of Libyan dissident in Germany briefly resumed Tuesday before the judge ordered a three-week recess at the prosecution's request. Judge Ahmad Moalem of the criminal court in Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, set a new session May 10 after a 10-minute court appearance Tuesday by the two suspects — Yasser Chreidi, 34, and Ghassan Ayoub, 38. Chreidi and Ayoub are on trial for the assassination of Mustafa Ashak, a Libyan dissident shot dead by unknown attackers on a West Berlin street March 29, 1984. His attackers fled. Chreidi and Ayoub, two Palestinian residents of Lebanon who have lived in Germany in the 80s, were charged with the murder. German authorities, which learned of Chreidi's and Ayoub's involvement from East German Stasi secret police files released after the 1989 collapse of the Berlin Wall, have demanded the extradition of Chreidi. Lebanon and Germany have no extradition treaty and it is up to the Lebanese government to decide whether to extradite. Chreidi also is accused of masterminding the April 5, 1986, bombing of the La Belle discotheque in Germany. The West Berlin disco is frequented by off-duty U.S. troops stationed in West Berlin.

**Bomb explodes in Yugoslav embassy car in Ankara**

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A bomb exploded in the parked car of a Yugoslav diplomat early Tuesday, causing damage but no injuries. Anatolia news agency said. The vehicle belonged to Zivard Simic, first secretary of the Yugoslav embassy. The bomb detonated about 4:30 a.m., destroying the car, sparking a fire and damaging two nearby vehicles. Firefighters put out the blaze. The car was parked in front of Mr. Simic's apartment building in downtown Ankara. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But, there is growing animosity in Turkey towards the Serbians because of their attacks in Bosnia. Turks feel close to the Bosnian Muslims because of historical ties.

## Israeli parents: No detainee release until PLO gives details

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The parents of three missing Israeli soldiers demanded Tuesday that the government block the release of Palestinian prisoners until the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) provides information on the whereabouts of their sons.

American-born Yona Baumel, 66, said he and the other parents would keep up a protest fast they began Sunday until PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat tells what he knows.

The three soldiers — Zachariah Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman — disappeared during a tank battle in Lebanon in June 1982, at the time of Israel's invasion. The elder Baumel said that for up to a year after that his son was held by the PLO.

"We are in this for the duration. The families are very determined now," said the retired Baumel, as he stood on the sidewalk opposite Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office. "The three soldiers — Zachariah Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman — disappeared during a tank battle in Lebanon in June 1982, at the time of Israel's invasion. The elder Baumel said that for up to a year after that his son was held by the PLO."

"We are in this for the duration. The families are very determined now," said the retired Baumel, as he stood on the sidewalk opposite Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office.

Around his neck, he wore half of his son's dog tag, given to him by Mr. Arafat in December, along with a promise the other half would follow soon. It never came.

The parents' protest, which as garnered broad support among Israelis, could prove embarrassing to the government which is in the midst of negotiating a timetable for the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

## U.S. revises rules of Iraq engagement

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (R) — The Defence Department has revised its rules of engagement in Iraq in an attempt to avoid the fatal blunder that killed 26 people last week.

Defence Secretary William Perry said procedures for identifying slow-moving helicopters before attacking them were now more detailed. It will take longer to shoot down a helicopter than a plane in the "no-fly" zone set up by the allies over northern Iraq to protect Kurds from the Iraqi military.

"We have revised the Iraq procedures," he told reporters travelling with him to South Korea before making a refuelling stop here Monday.

"The reason you can have more precautions and take longer on identifying a helicopter is you simply have more time," Mr. Perry said.

He declined to be specific on the new rules. Mr. Perry said it will take weeks to determine the exact cause of what led two U.S. F-15C fighter jets to shoot down two U.S. military helicopters Thursday. The fighters wrongly identified the craft as Iraqi helicopters believed to be violating the "no-fly" zone.

The jets had the helicopters in sight, but Mr. Perry suggested that 15 Americans. Five Kurds and six military officers from Turkey, Britain and France died in the shoot-down because not enough time was taken to check the slow-moving aircraft.

"As I reviewed the procedures (in Iraq) in some detail and compared them with the procedures we had put together in Bosnia, the thing that was lacking was a discrimination between helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, combat aircraft," he said.

"And so we changed the procedures. We have revised the Iraq procedures to reflect that same (Bosnia) requirement for greater caution and greater checks and balances in the case of helicopters."

Mr. Perry expected to begin

receiving "some significant findings on elements" of the accident investigation this week, "but we are certainly several weeks away from having anything like a final report on it."

Both U.S. and allied fighter jets are patrolling "no-fly" zones over Shiites in the south from the Iraqi government forces. But Mr. Perry did not say whether the new rules applied in the southern zone.

Mr. Perry also said that the remains of 12 of the 15 American victims would be flown home from Germany via Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, on Tuesday and that a memorial service would be held for all 26 victims early next week at Arlington Memorial Cemetery near Washington.

An air force official said Monday the crucial breakdown in the shootdown was misidentification of the helicopters as Iraqi Hinds.

"I agree that there were probably a series of events that occurred," Air Force Acting Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Larry Henry told a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee.

"But in the end, in the end, we had a breakdown in visual identification," he said. "That was the end result."

Mr. Perry said last week that investigators must answer a series of questions on whether the airborne warning and control (AWACS) plane in charge of the operation had radio contact with the helicopters as well as the warplanes and whether identification devices were working.

But General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, said then that rules of engagement allowed the F-15s to fire when they identified the helicopters as Iraqi Soviet-built Hinds without obtaining permission.

Gen. Shalikashvili said the warplanes thought they had identified the U.S. Blackhawk helicopters as Iraqi after making two high speed passes over them.

Mr. Perry expected to begin

## More U.N. inspectors arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Two teams of U.N. arms experts have arrived in Baghdad to check Iraq's data and record a baseline for the control of its military industry.

"We are here in Baghdad to verify data which we received in March during high level talks in New York," Horst Reeps, a German army officer leading a seven-member chemical warfare team, told reporters.

A 14-member ballistic missile team under American John Larabee arrived at the same time, their second visit in two weeks.

"We are back here on the second round of inspections for the baseline survey for the ballistic missile production facilities," Mr. Larabee said.

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donesia, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to approach the U.N. Security Council to lift the sanctions against Baghdad.

Indonesia said it would seek a timetable for ending sanctions but stopped short of saying it would lobby for their removal.

"We are asking the support of all nations to support a positive event in the Security Council, taken by the majority, in taking a decision to lift the sanctions," Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

Mr. Sahaf is on four-day visit to Indonesia to deliver a message from President Saddam Hussein on relations between his country and the Security Council.

The U.N. trade embargo, which covers everything except food and medicine, has been in force since just after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said President Suharto had promised to contact NAM's coordination bureau in New York and its caucus in the council and other members to ask when the issue would be settled.

"Compliance is the key to easing or lifting U.N. trade sanctions including the blockade of Iraq's oil exports."

Mr. Reeps told reporters the U.N. still lacked documents from the Iraqi side on pre-Gulf war chemical production and imports and the experts were "searching for more proofs to support Iraq's data."

U.N. officials would not give a reason, but Iraq criticizes the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) and the United Nations in general for delays in lifting the oil embargo, which the U.N. Security Council has linked to compliance on weapons.

For most of the period after the 1990/91 Gulf war, UNSCOM had cited Iraqi obstructionism as the reason for its refusal to certify compliance by Baghdad.

Iraqi Health Minister Umed Madhat Mubarak said last week the death rate for children under five had soared and malnutrition had become a major problem.

## 2-gunmen case boosted in massacre investigation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Muslim worshipper told the inquiry commission into the Hebron mosque massacre Monday that he heard shots fired after Palestinians beat the Jewish gunman, Baruch Goldstein, indicating the settler may have had at least one accomplice.

The commission has heard testimony indicating the possibility of more than one Jewish settler being involved in the Feb. 25 killing of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque since it began its hearings seven weeks ago.

"I saw that the man carrying the bag and who was wearing headphones was shooting," said Ahmad Nasser. Previous testimony showed that Goldstein carried a bag and was wearing headphones when he entered the site.

"The worshippers standing behind him attacked him and threw him on the floor and after he fell the shooting continued," said Mr. Nasser.

The Israeli news agency Itim quoted Mr. Nasser as saying that "also after (Goldstein) was killed, shooting continued from a different direction in the mosque. There was a crack in the door into the hall and through it I saw someone shooting at us."

Goldstein was beaten to death by Palestinians after he opened fire with an automatic rifle, killing more than 30 Muslims and wounding dozens more.

Last week hospitals gave medical investigators two types of bullets which Palestinian doctors recovered from victims of the Hebron mosque massacre.

A police ballistics expert has testified that one bullet was found at the site that did not match the gun automatic rifle used by Goldstein.

Three Palestinians testified before the inquiry commission that is winding up hearings that started seven weeks ago.

## COLUMN 8

Couple taken into custody by Canadian police

NEW YORK (R) — A couple who reported their baby daughter missing in Central Park were being questioned by Canadian police Monday after admitting they dumped the infant's body in a snow-filled Quebec ditch. Joseph and Helene Bales had tried to convince New York police their 10-week-old daughter Maguet disappeared in Central Park over the weekend. But New York police said Sunday that the couple had confessed the truth and told them where to find the body. Quebec police began questioning the parents at a local precinct Monday. Police will return the couple to Canada, a police spokeswoman said. In statements to New York detectives, the parents said they found the baby dead in her crib on April 8 at their St. Romain, Quebec home. The Quebec coroner said Monday that preliminary investigations were inconclusive and it was not yet able to determine the cause of the infant's death. "The results of the autopsy do not show any external mark of violence. No trace of internal or external haemorrhage nor any trauma," Dr. Jean Brochu said in a statement. "In short, the medical causes of the death remain inexplicable for the moment."

## Adventurer sets out to conquer Mount Everest

OSLO (AP) — Making history with his skis treks to the North and South Poles wasn't enough for Norwegian adventurer Erling Kagge. Now he is out to climb to the world's highest point, the top of 8,848 metre high Mount Everest, a place so desolate it is sometimes called "the third pole." Last year, the 31-year-old lawyer became the first person to ever ski alone and unaided to the South Pole. In 1990, he and his friend Borge Ousland were the first team to ski to the North Pole without assistance. No one has skied to both poles and climbed Mount Everest.

"To complete this trilogy, as the first person in history, still seems like a dream to me. In many ways, I am both looking forward to the trip and dreading it," Mr. Kagge said in a statement released Monday. His spokesman, Hans Christian Erlandsen in Oslo, said Mr. Kagge had been in the Himalayas in Nepal since late March, and planned to begin his ascent on May 5 as part of a team. Mr. Erlandsen said Mr. Kagge wanted to keep the expedition quiet until he was sure he could withstand the extreme altitude, but issued a statement after a Norwegian newspaper leaked the plan Monday.

## Roseanne Arnold files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Comedian Roseanne Arnold filed Monday for divorce from her husband Tom Arnold, claiming she was beaten and abused by her spouse. The action followed a shouting match three days ago on the set of Roseanne her highly rated television show. The divorce petition, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, cited irreconcilable differences and said the couple officially separated Friday. The petition asked for the couple's assets, which reportedly amount to tens of millions of dollars, to be divided by a judge. It also asked that Roseanne Arnold not be required to pay alimony. KNBC Television reported that Mr. Arnold also asked for, and got, a restraining order against her husband. The NBC network affiliate said that in a five-page affidavit supporting her request for a temporary restraining order, Roseanne Arnold said, "I now realize that I have been a classic battered and abused wife... throughout our marriage. The respondent hit me. Struck me. Has thrown objects at me... and verbally abused me." The affidavit also alleged that Tom Arnold had pushed his wife against walls "while he screams and shouts at me, drowning out any possible plea that I might have to make him stop." The affidavit said Roseanne was extremely afraid of her husband and feared for her safety. KNBC reported, Tom Arnold was unavailable for comment Monday.

In conclusion, Mr. Arnold said Hamas was committed to resist Israel as long as the Jewish state occupied Palestinian lands, that it would not be deterred by Israeli attempts to create problems among our brethren, and that the group would use various means within the occupied territories — leaflets, loudspeakers and graffiti as well as contacts with international news agencies — to propagate its cause.

In a leaflet issued in the occupied territories on Saturday, shortly after His Majesty King Hussein said Hamas did not have any legal status in Jordan, the group offered to stop further attacks on Israelis if the Israeli army and settlers stopped assaulting Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Asked whether the proposal was a "political initiative," Mr. Abu Marzouq was quoted as replying: "It is a political initiative if you want to call it that. It is also the viewpoint of the (Hamas) movement if you want to call it that."

The Hamas leader said his

## Al Ahd leader denies dissent among party members

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The secretary general of the Al Ahd Party, Abdul Hadi Majali, denied on Tuesday reports that dissent and resignations based on tribal differences plagued his four-year-old political organisation.

"Our party is not facing any problems with members, nor are there any mass resignations contrary to rumours in the local press," Mr. Majali, a Karak deputy in the Lower House of Parliament, told a press conference.

Mr. Majali said his party had difficulties with "early over-expansion and popularity" of the party. The party now has 10,000 members and supporters, according to Mr. Majali, "but not all members are politically competent party members."

"Such members had misrepresented the party's position on Jordanian-Palestinian ties," he added.

Recent reports that many Al Ahd members from the Balqa'a region had resigned due to "tribal conflicts and competition" were "false," according to Mr. Majali.

"We had massive support in the Balqa'a region. About 200 people joined in one day, then local elections were held there to choose party heads in that governorate. People fought amongst each other and some people handed in their resignations," said Mr. Majali, holding up a folder. "The resignations

are not accepted until the central committee votes on them. That's the whole story."

Mr.